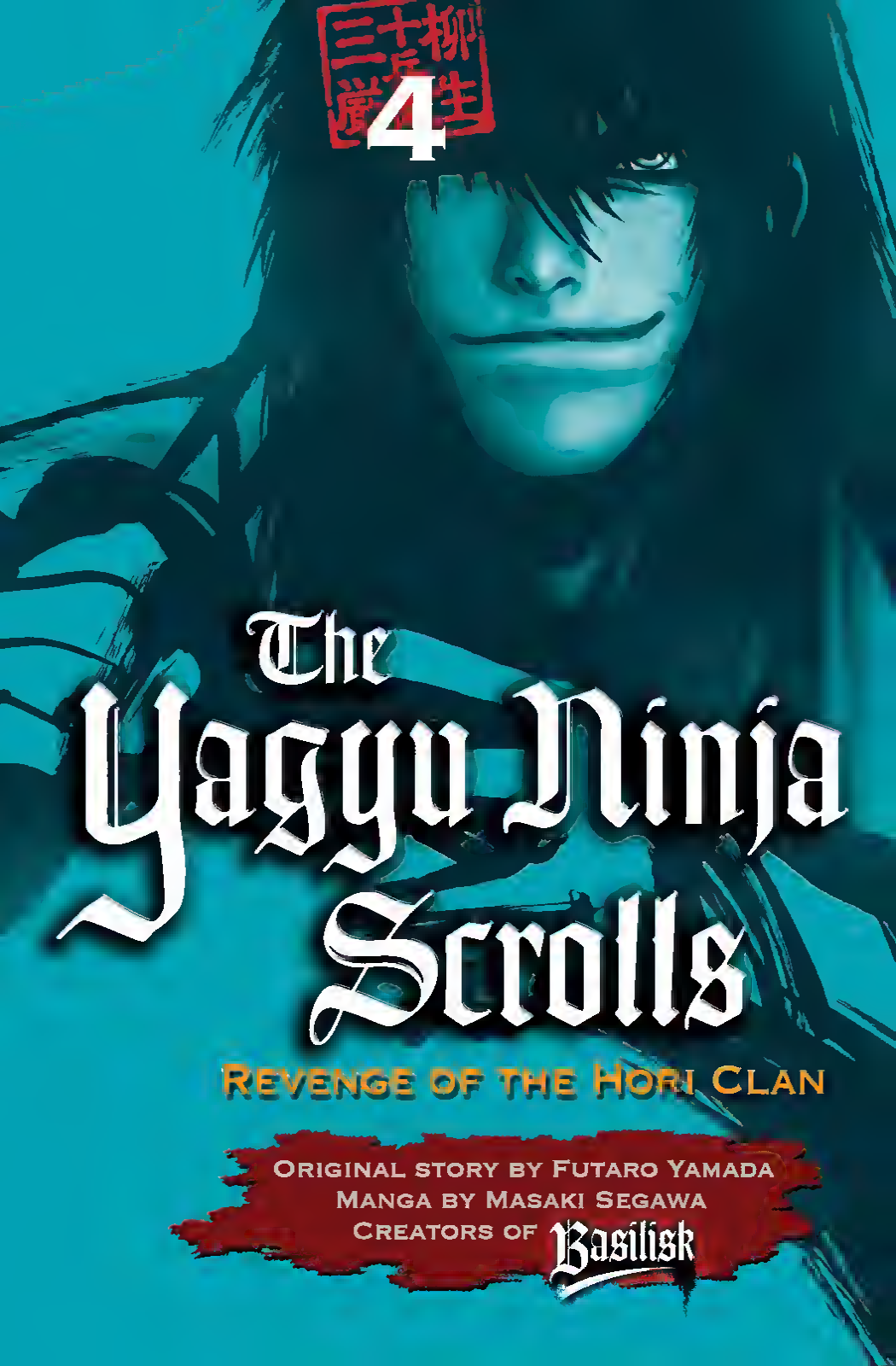
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The
Yagyu Ninja
Scrolls
Revenge of the Hori Clan
Original story by Futaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa
Creators of Basilisk

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

Revenge of the Hori Clan

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY MINI EDA
LETTERED BY B. HAN

4

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Translator/adapter: Mini Eda
Letterer: B. Han

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

4

ORIGINAL STORY BY
FŪTARO YAMADA

MANGA BY
MASAKI SEGAWA

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls
INTRODUCTION OF CHARACTERS
THE SURVIVING WOMEN OF THE HORI CLAN
OKEI
OSAWA
OTORI
OFUE
OSHINA
SAKURA
OCHIE
YAGYÛ JYÛBEI MITSUYOSHI
WASHINOSU RENSUKE
USES KEMPO
HIRAGA MAGOBEI
REVENGE ACCOMPLISHED
THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
KATÔ AKINARI
KÔRO GINSHIRÔ
MANIPULATES A MYSTERIOUS NET
DAIDÔJI TESSAI
REVENGE ACCOMPLISHED
GUSOKU JYONOSHIN
COMMANDS THREE GIANT DOGS
URUSHIDO KÔSHICHIRÔ
SWORDSMAN
SNIBA ICHIGANBO
WIELDS A KUNAI
SYNOPSIS. AFTER MEMBERS OF THE HORI CLAN ARE BRUTALLY MURDERED, THE SEVEN SURVIVING WOMEN ENACT REVENGE ON THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS DAIDÔJI TESSAI (WIELDS A SICKLE AND CHAIN) AND HIRAGA MAGOBEI (WIELDS A SPEAR) WITH THE HELP OF MASTER SWORDSMAN YAGYÛ JYÛBEI MITSUYOSHI. MEANWHILE, IN AN EFFORT TO DRAW OUT THE MYSTERIOUS MAN IN THE HANNYA MASK (JYÛBEI), THE SEVEN SPEARS BEGIN TO TERRORIZE EDO AND ATTRACTIVE COUPLES ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT. WHILE TRYING TO KEEP HIS TRUE IDENTITY A SECRET, JYÛBEI COMES UP WITH A PLAN TO INFILTRATE THE KATÔ MANSION!

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls 4

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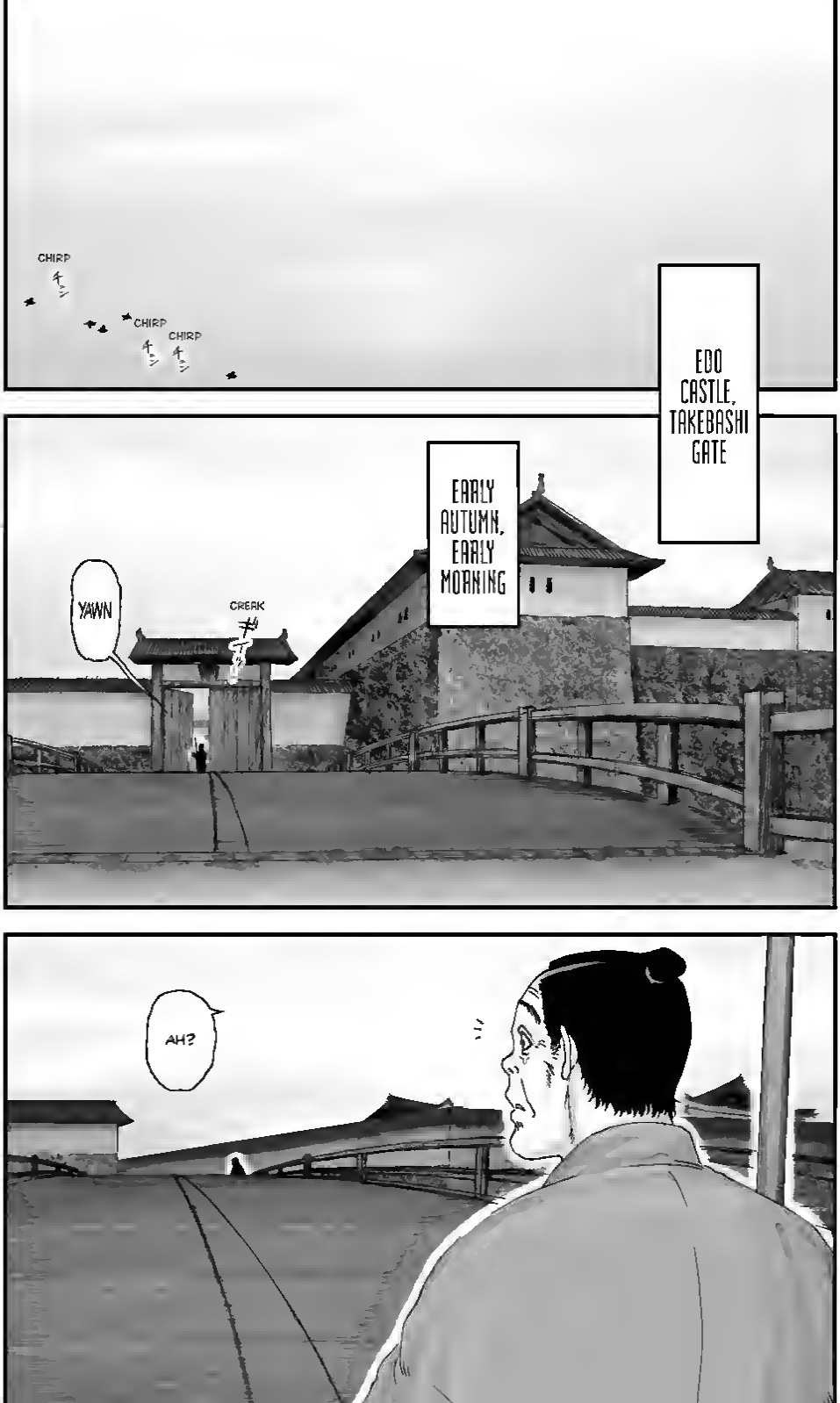
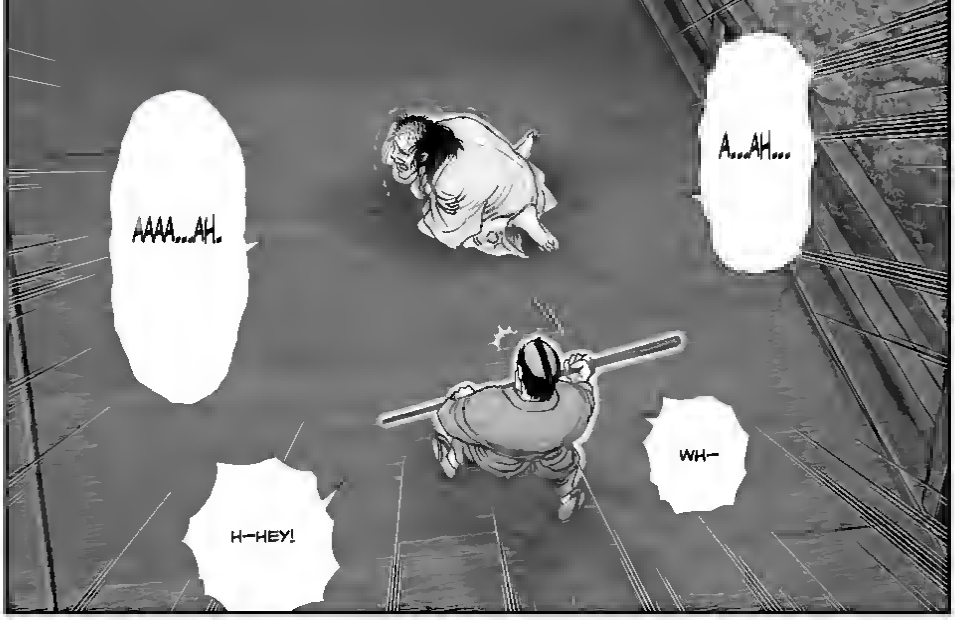

CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
チュン
EDO CASTLE, TAKEBASHI GATE
EARLY AUTUMN, EARLY MORNING
YAWN
CREAK
キィ
AH?

STORY 21: THE HANNYA BANDITS (2)

...
...NO...
M...
AN...
AT YOSHIWARA WITHOUT PAYING FOR THE WOMAN?
HAHA...
DID YOU GET STRIPPED FOR LEAV-ING THE BROTHEL
...
SHIVER
ぶるぶる
SHIVER
ぶるぶる
SHIVER
ぶるぶる
SHIVER
ぶるぶる

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
AH...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
AH...

AAAAAAAAAH..
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ



THIS STRANGE INCIDENT AT EDO CASTLE'S TAKEBASHI GATE

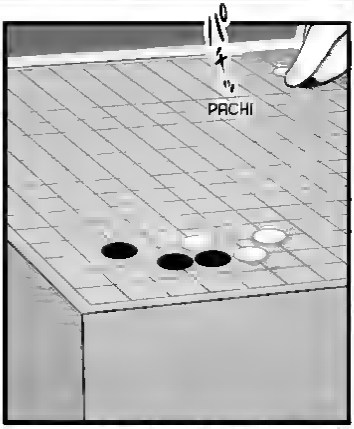
GO AWAY!

LATER OCCURRED A SECOND AND THIRD TIME.

CAST THE MEN OFF ELSEWHERE, BUT...

AT FIRST, THE GUARDS, WHO WERE WARY OF GETTING INVOLVED,

THE RUMOR SPREAD THROUGHOUT EDO.
STARTED A FALSE RUMOR ABOUT LADY TENJUIN WHO RESIDED IN THE MANSION INSIDE TAKEBASHI GATE
THIS IN TURN



*Chie Izu Matsudaira Izunokami and Yagyu Tajimanokami were both important figures of the early Edo period, who were effective in keeping the clan lords in line. Yagyu Tajimanokami is Yagyu Jyubei's father.

LORD MUNENORI...
HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR ABOUT THE HANNYA BANDITS?
PACHI
...I HAVE HEARD THEY SET THEIR SIGHTS ON... ATTRACTIVE BRIDES AND GROOMS
AND ABDUCT THEM.
AND THAT NOT ONE
SU
OF THOSE ABDUCTED HAVE RETURNED...
WELL.
THE BRIDES ASIDE, SEVERAL GROOMS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED ABOUT TEN DAYS LATER...
AT A "CERTAIN PLACE."

TAKEBASHI GATE!?
IN-DEED...

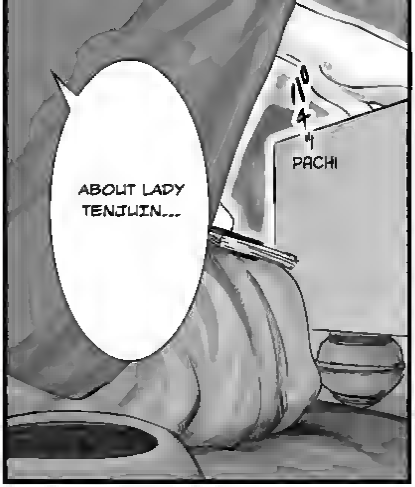
OH? AND THIS "CERTAIN PLACE"?

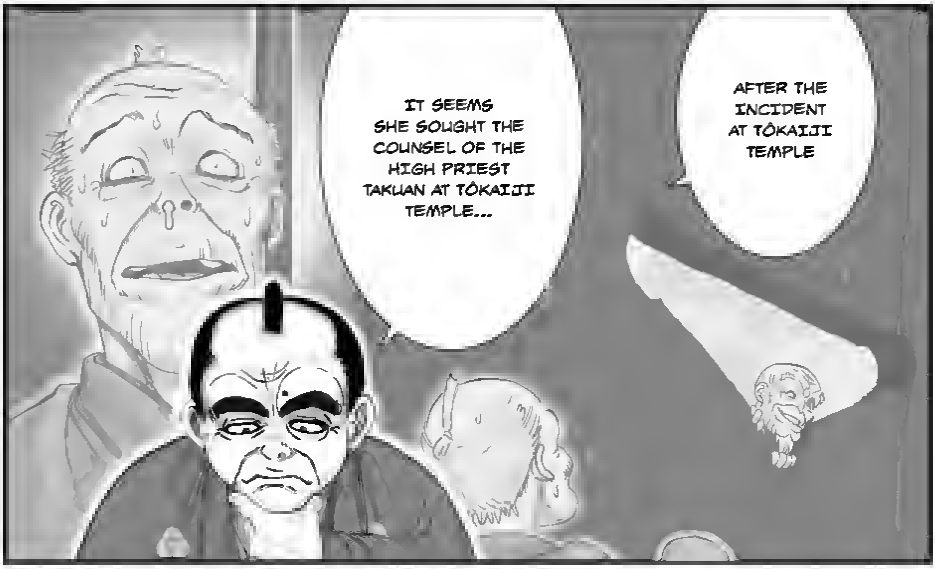
...IN FRONT OF TAKEBASHI GATE.

IT IS SAID, "PRINCESS SEN IS JEALOUS OF ATTRACTIVE COUPLES WHO ARE NEWLY MARRIED. SO SHE ABDUCTS THE GROOM, HAS HER WAY WITH HIM, DRAINING HIS SEXUAL ENERGY, AND CASTS HIM OUTSIDE THE GATE.
ALL THE MEN WERE FOUND HAGGARD AND APPEARED TO HAVE THEIR SPIRIT DRAINED OUT OF THEM...
THAT IS THE VICIOUS RUMOR HEARD IN PUBLIC...

SHE SAID, "THE SHOGUN NEED NOT INTERFERE."
.....
...AND...HOW IS LADY TENJUIN?
OUTRAGEOUS! SUCH A CRUEL WORLD...
AFTER THE INCIDENT AT TŌKAIJI TEMPLE* IN THE SPRING SHE UTTERED THE SAME WORDS.
AS YOU KNOW.
MM...
THE BANDITS LEAVE BEHIND NO EVIDENCE BESIDES THEIR MASKS...
WELL....
AND THE INCIDENT AT TŌKAIJI TEMPLE...ARE RELEATED?
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS MATTER WITH THE HANNYA BANDITS

*The convent where the Hori clan was killed by the Rizu Seven Spears. Lady Tenjuin rescued the seven surviving Hori women here

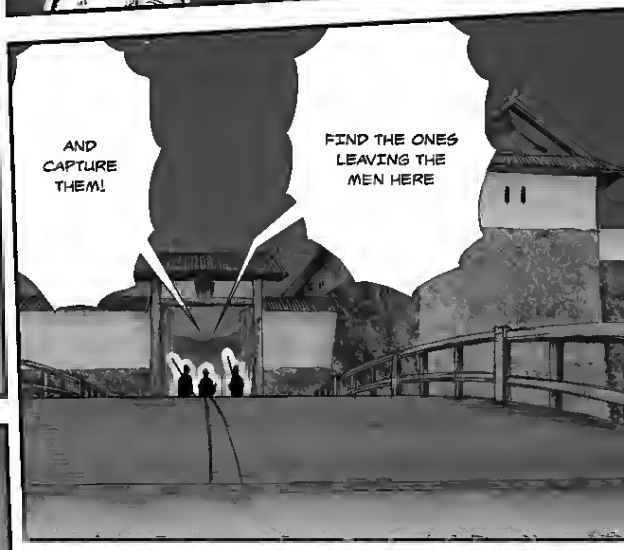




*"Ken Zen Ichinyo" translates to "Sword and zen as one" The teachings of the sword and teachings of zen strive for the same goals

HAVE YOU HEARD ANY-THING?
HM.
NOTHING COMES TO MIND...
MM...
IS THAT SO...
IN ANY CASE.
AS LONG AS THE SHOGUN PLANS TO HONOR LADY TENJUIN'S REQUEST TO "NOT INTERFERE,"
WE CAN ONLY STAND BY AND WATCH...
SET
パチ

TENJUIN'S ELDER ATTENDANT YOSHIDA SHURI
SHAMEFULL!


AND CAPTURE THEM!
FIND THE ONES LEAVING THE MEN HERE

STAY ON CONSTANT ALERT!
Y-YES.
SCAMPER

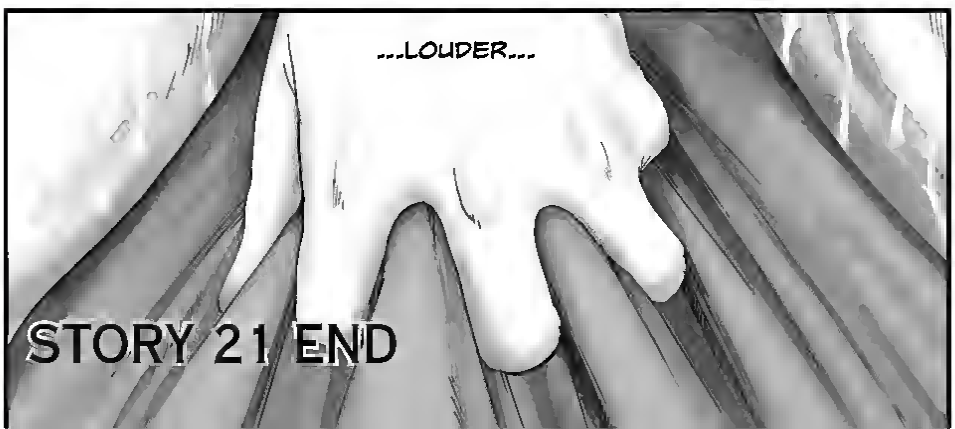
THUD

U...
GRH...

U...
UHH...
KEKE...

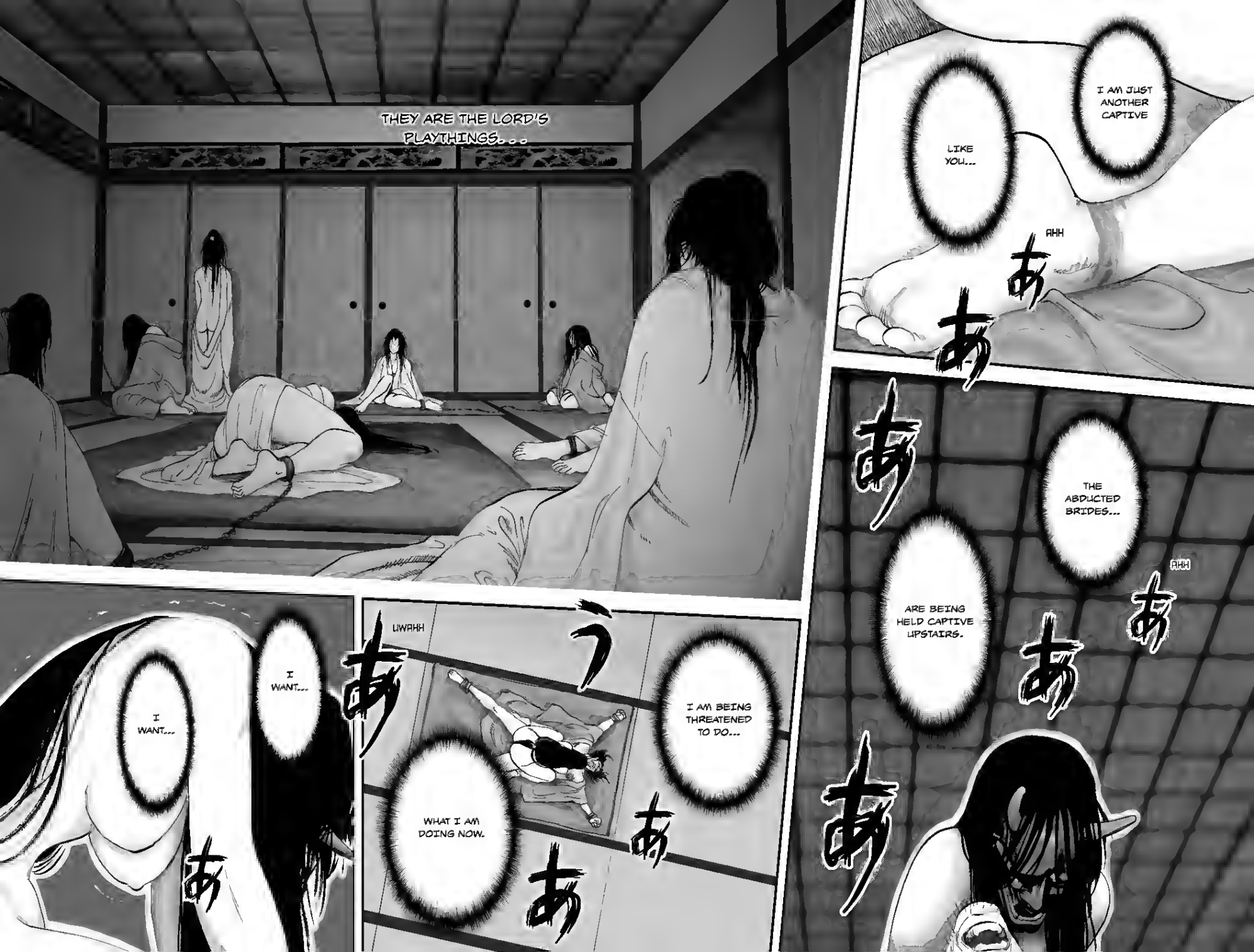
UHH...
AH...
KILL... ME... JUST...
KILL... ME...
... MORE ...
SU
CRY LOUDER PLEASE...

A...HH..
AHH H...
AHH...
...PLEASE...


...LOUDER...
STORY 21 END

CACKLE
AHHHHH
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ
!?
THERE ARE MEN SPYING ON US...FROM OUTSIDE...
...PLEASE... LOUDER...

STORY 22: FLOWER IN THE ABYSS
AHH-HH!?
SO THE MEN OUTSIDE CANNOT HEAR. . .
MY VOICE...
うお
UWO
あああ
AHHHHH
I AM.
THE LORD'S MISTRESS.
BUT, NOW. . .
あ
あ


THEY ARE THE LORD'S PLAYTHINGS...
I AM JUST ANOTHER CAPTIVE
LIKE YOU...
AHH
あ
THE ABDUCTED BRIDES...
ARE BEING HELD CAPTIVE UPSTAIRS.
AHH
I AM BEING THREATENED TO DO...
WHAT I AM DOING NOW.
UWAHH
I WANT...
I WANT...

I WANT. . .
TO ESCAPE.

あ
AHH
CLENCH
グ
グ
あ
THIS HELL.
あ

あ
...TOMORROW MORNING, YOU
WILL BE LEFT OUTSIDE TAKEBASHI GATE.
あ
あ
AHHHHHHH
AFTERWARD, YOU MUST...
RUN STRAIGHT TO THE AUTHORITIES AND...
あ
あ
あ
SHUDDER
REPORT THE EVIL...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
あ
ガ
ガ

...AH.
...FU ...
DROP
ヤワ
PANT ハア
PANT ハア
PANT ハア
PANT ハア
BOK ボコ
!?
AIZU CLAN'S KATO MANSION.
BEING PERPETRATED AT THE....
WORHHHHHHHH
お
あ
あ
あ

HIH...
...TRAITOR
RIZU SEVEN SPEARS
SHIBA ICHIGAKO

HEEEE.

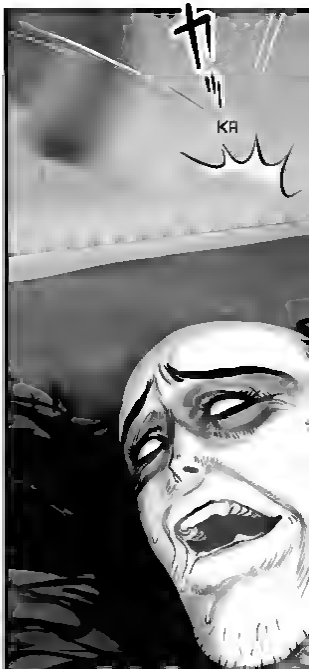
TWITCH
びくっ
SU...
すー

SHUFFLE
ざっ
.....

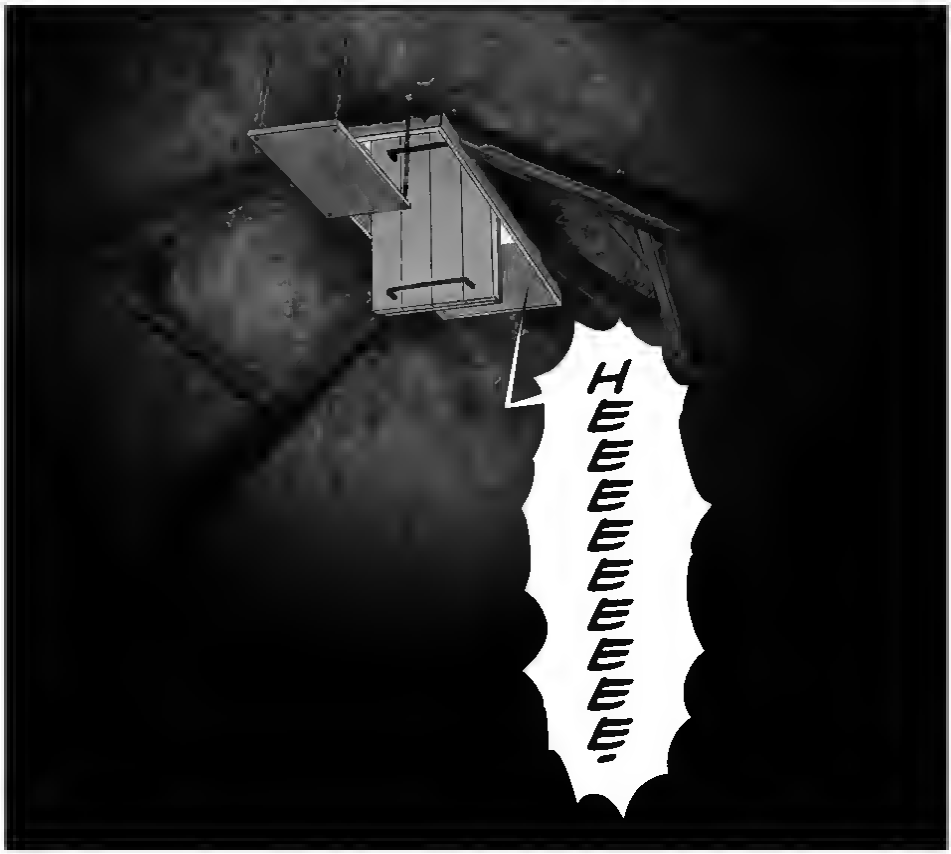
SHE BETRAYED US?
AIZU CLAN HEAD KATÔ AKINARI
UH... H...
AH...
CLACK
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS UBUSHIDO KOSHICHIRÔ
YES.
SHOOM

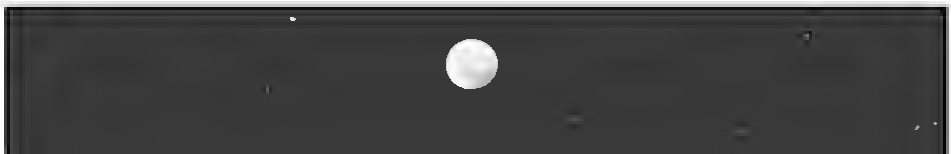
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
FLOP

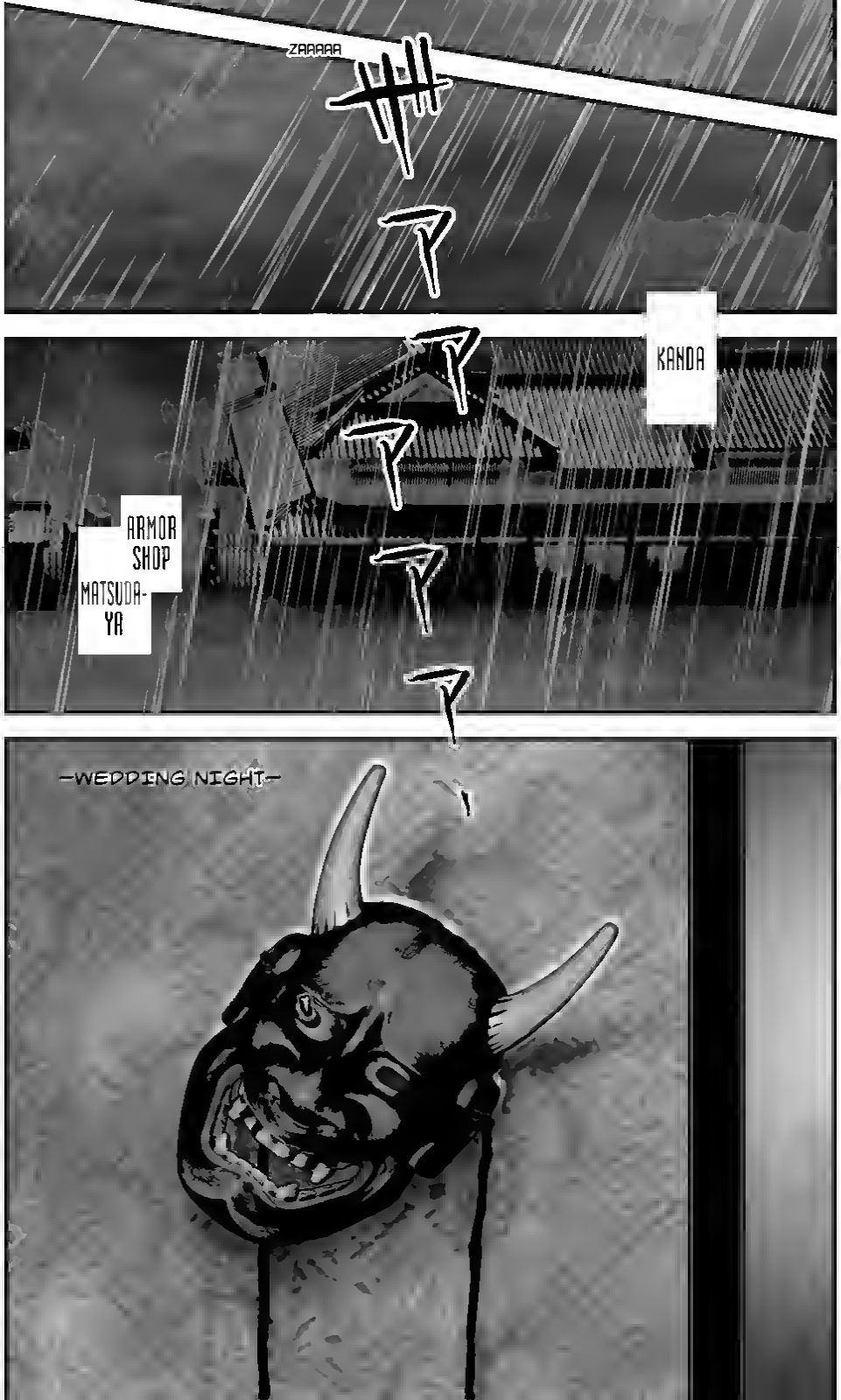
NOW HE'LL HAVE TO...
TOO BAD HE HAD TO HEAR YOU.


KA

I'LL MEET THE SAME FATE... AS THE WOMEN.
HIH...


HEEEEEEEEE!




ZAAAAA
KANDA
ARMOR SHOP
MATSUDA-YA
—WEDDING NIGHT—

ZAAAAA

AH.
アアアアア。

THE YOUNG LADY!
THE YOUNG LADY!
SOMEBODY! SOME-BODEEE.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

A HANNYA MASK!
A HANNYA MASK.
AHH.

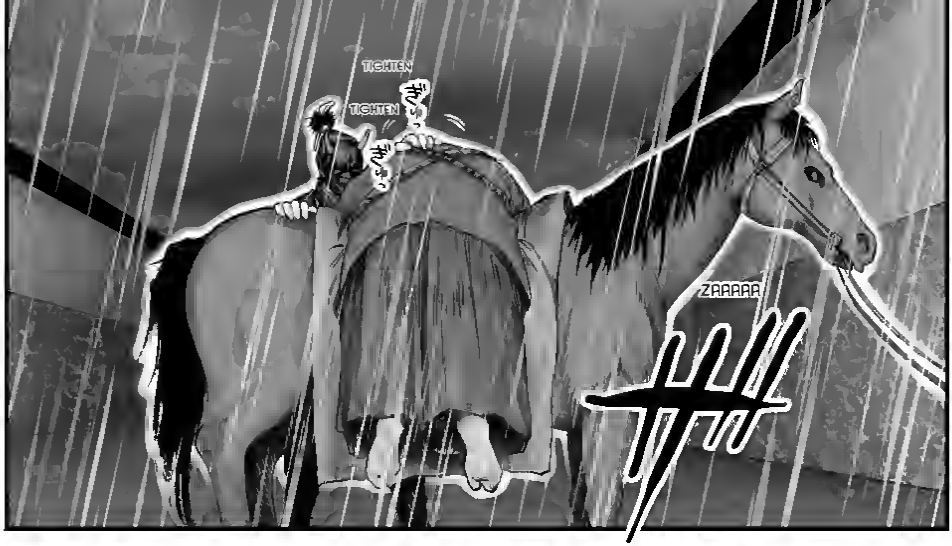
ZAAAAA
GINSHIRÔ, WHERE'S RENSUKE?
HE SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
FIRST THE BRIDE, ICHIGANBÔ.
THUD
MM.

HM.
EVEN RENSUKE WAS HAVING A HARD TIME.
...TONIGHT'S GROOM IS HUGE.
ZAAAAA

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

GOOD WORK RENSUKE.
HERE HE IS.

ZAAAAA
アアアア


TIGHTEN
TIGHTEN
ぎゅっ
ぎゅっ
ZAAAAA

HURRY UP RENSUKE.

NOW WE JOIN KÔSHICHIRÔ AND JYÔNOSHIN STANDING WATCH.

DODODO
ZPPPPP
HERE THEY COME.
MUST HAVE GONE SMOOTHLY
STOMP
GRRRR
HEH. EVEN THE AUTHORITIES ARE AFRAID TO SHOW THEM-SELVES BEFORE US LATELY.

GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
BE QUIET!
WHAT'S WRONG, TENMARU!?
WOW
WOW
GAU WOW WOW

STORY 23: SPLITTING THE MASK
ZAAAAA
H-HEY, TENMARU.
GRUWOW WOW
STAMPEDE
LOOK SMALLER TO YOU?
DOESN'T RENSUKE'S BACK...
WHAT!?
TENMARU'S SURE NOISY.
ICHI-GANBÓ.

ZAAAAA
I—IT... DOES...
KUKUKU...
HANNYA MASK!!
THAT'S HIM..... THE MAN WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!!
SU
KILL HIM!
NO....TRY TO CAPTURE HIM AND DELIVER HIM TO LORD AKINARI.

ZAAAAA
STAMPED
HEY.
REN-SUKE.
CLACK

CRACK
GASSH

ZAAAA
KUKU.
GRAB
KA
KA
TCH.
FLING
STAMPEDE

ZARAA
BASTARD.
ICHIGANBÔ!?
ア
ア
ア
ア
?
!?
STAMPEDE

RE-
RENSUKE?
ZAAA
WHIP
STAMPEDE

WHAT!?
THAT GROOM IS RENSUKE, ICHIGANBÔ!!
WHIP
STAMPEDE
SU
DAMN IT!
WHIP
DO

DOSHH
SU
DODO
ZA

ZZAAAA
WOA..
CRASH
SU

STAMPEDE
SHH
BAS-
TARD!!
PI SSHH
DSSH
JUMP
SLIDE
CRACK
GRH.

ZAAAAA
HMM.

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

DO
DO
DO
DO
TAT A TA
ZARARA

SLAP

TAN

GALLOP
GALLOP
ZARARA
GALLOP
GALLOP
.....
GRR

STORY 23 END

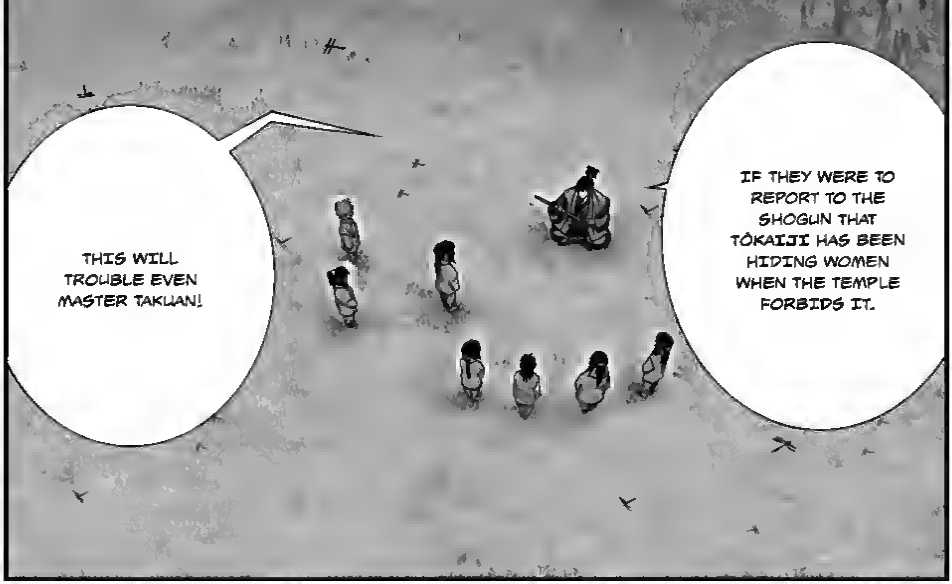
AIZU CLAN,
KATŌ MANSION
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
BLAM
BASTARD!! WHY DIDN'T HE
KILL ME?!
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
WASHINOSU RENSUKE

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
RENSUKE AND REPLACING FOR HIM THE GROOM...
THAT HE WOULD SHOW HIMSELF BY KNOCKING OUT...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS GUSOKU JYONOSHIN
GRR
HANNYA MASK...
PLAYING US FOR FOOLS...
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS KORO ENSHITO

SHINAGAWA, TÔKAIJI TEMPLE
SENSEI JYUBEI.
BUZZ

STORY 24: AUTUMN WIND AT TÔKAIJI TEMPLE

W...WELL...WHEN WE COULDN'T BEAR TO STAY IN THE TEMPLE...
WE TOOK TURNS SNEAKING OUT AND TRYING TO LEARN SOME THING ABOUT THE KATÔ FAMILY.
GLARE
IDIOTS!
I DON'T CARE IF THE SEVEN SPEARS CUT YOU DOWN.
BUT WHAT IF THEY FOLLOW YOU HERE?
OH, BUT...
EACH OF US ONLY ONCE...


THIS WILL TROUBLE EVEN MASTER TAKUAN!
IF THEY WERE TO REPORT TO THE SHOGUN THAT TŌKAIJI HAS BEEN HIDING WOMEN WHEN THE TEMPLE FORBIDS IT.

P...PLEASE FORGIVE US...
...UM...
.....

GRR
THE SEVEN SPEARS ARE BEHIND THIS!
THE RUMOR ABOUT THE HANNYA BANDITS ---
BUT!

I THINK...
SO, TOO.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
MUST HAVE BECOME AKINARI'S SACRI-FICES!
TH...THE BRIDES WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED...
I THINK SO, TOO.

AND THE GROOMS ARE BEING LEFT IN FRONT OF TAKEBASHI GATE.
SO A VICIOUS RUMOR ABOUT LADY TENJUIN WILL SPREAD!!

I THINK...
SO, TOO.

JYUBEI-SAMA!
DO YOU INTEND TO IGNORE WHAT IS HAPPENING?

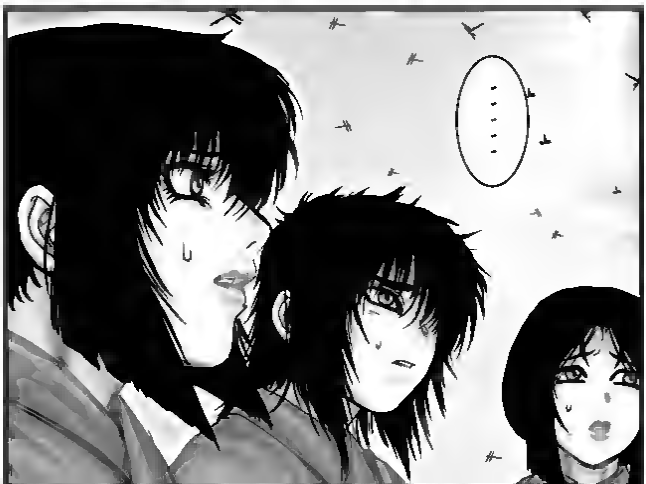
A TRAP SET BY THE SEVEN SPEARS.
WE SHOW OURSELVES BEFORE THE ENEMY... THAT IS THEIR PLAN.
AND SO... SHAKEN BY THE RUMOR...
SO, TOO.
I THOUGHT...
THOUGHT?
KNOWING LADY TENJUIN IS IN TROUBLE!
E...EVEN SO, WE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY
NOD
NOD

LAST NIGHT, I WENT UP AGAINST THE HANNYA BANDITS.
OH...
.....
OHHH!!
---OHHH-

WASHINOSU RENSUKE... I HAD PLANNED TO INFILTRATE THE KATÔ MANSION BUT FAILED.
...AND SO
WEARING A MASK, I PRETENDED TO BE ONE OF THE SEVEN SPEARS,
LEAN
A-AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?!
I WAS FOUND OUT AND ATTACKED!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
I LOST.
HUH?
HEH...EVEN WITH THE MASK AND COVER OF DARKNESS....IT WAS A BIT RASH!

TOTAL DEFEAT.
N-NO.
NOT YOU!!
HERE YOU ARE....
B-BUT.
THE ENEMY ONLY INTENDED TO...
SPLIT MY MASK.

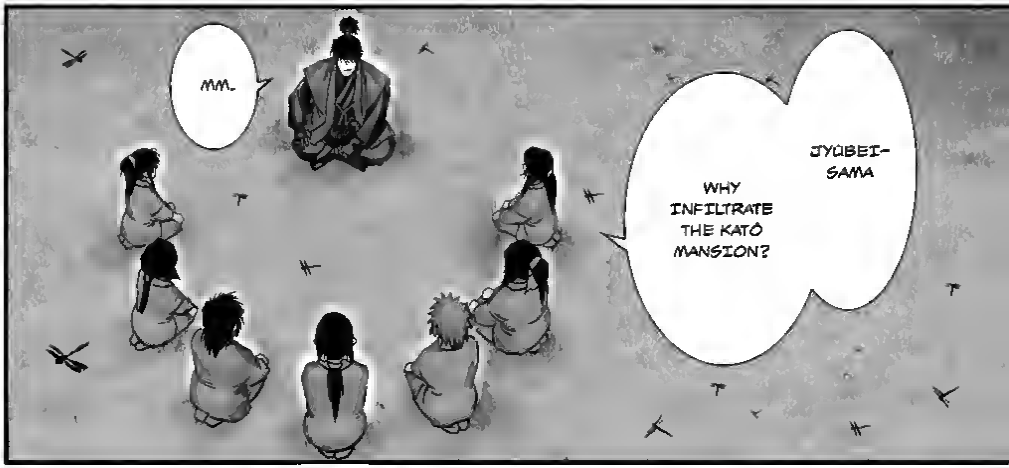
URUSHIDO KOSHICHIRO...
IF HE HAD INTENDED TO STRIKE ME DOWN...
HE WOULD HAVE SPLIT ME OPEN LIKE BAMBOO.
IN A TRUE MATCH OF SKILLS, WOULD HE WIN OR WOULD I...


.....

I DO NOT KNOW.

SO I RAN LIKE A RABBIT.
BUT....I HAD NO INTENTION OF KILLING HIM EITHER.
THAT IS YOUR JOB!
TO BE HONEST...
THAT LAST "HMM" WAS SOUR GRAPES.
SO! I WIN FOR HAVING THE FASTER LEGS.
HMM.
HMM.

OH.
IT'S CONTA-GIOUS.
HMM.
CHUCKLE
クスクス
CHUCKLE


MM.
JYUBEI-SAMA
WHY INFILTRATE THE KATÔ MANSION?

WHAT
IS IT...?

I HAVE A SCHEME TO PUT AN END...
TO THEIR EVIL DEEDS.

OH!?
COME CLOSER...
WHISPER
WHISPER
D-DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN...?
YES.
.....
TO DO IT...
BUT I HAVE TO ENTER THE KATÔ MANSION.

GOING THERE ONCE BEFORE AND
MOCKING THEM WAS A BAD MOVE.

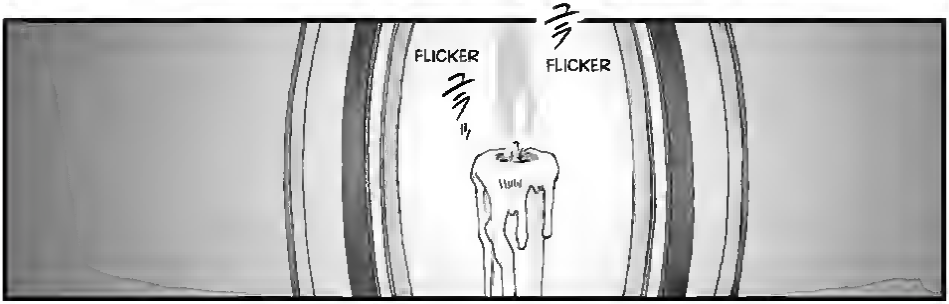
NOW EVERYONE IS ON GUARD.
GUARDS PATROL THE GROUNDS IN EIGHT AND DAY
WORK THEIR RIFLES AT THE READY.

I DISGUISED MYSELF AS ONE OF THE SEVEN SPEARS BUT. . . I FAILED.
SO...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
. . . .
NOD
NOD

SO I'M LEFT WITH ONE CHOICE...
?

BECOME A BRIDE-GROOM
AND BE ABDUCTED.
STORY 24 END

YUSHIMA
TORIYAMA MANAGE-MENT RESIDENCE


FLICKER
FLICKER

OSONO.

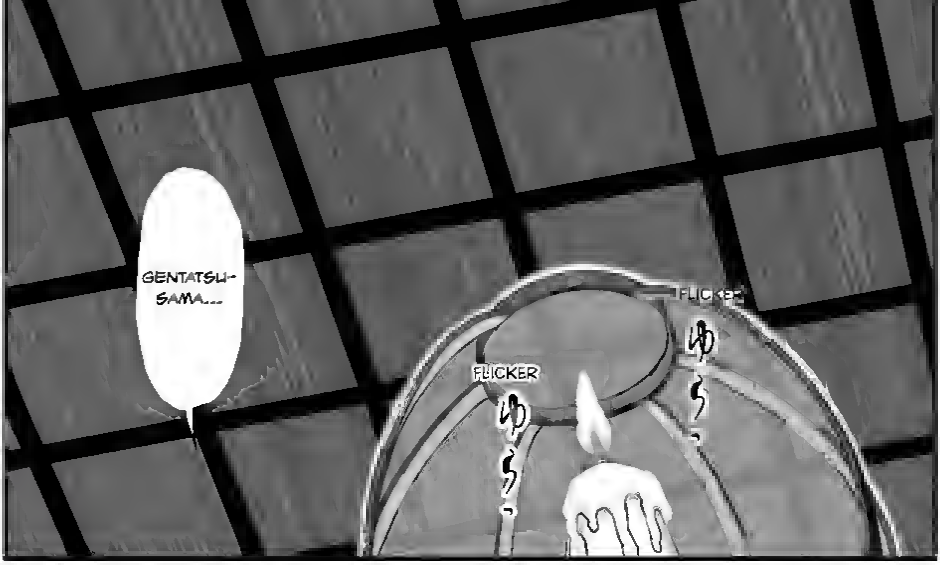
DAUGHTER OF TORIYAMA MANAGEMENT, OSONO
YES, GENTATSU-SAMA.
BROTHER OF MISAWA GENBO, PHYSICIAN AT EDO CASTLE
MISAWA GENTATSU
THAT I AM BLIND IS WHY
I WAS ABLE TO MARRY INTO YOUR FAMILY.

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT I CANNOT SEE YOUR...
TWITCH
ピク
AT THIS MOMENT

BEAT
ヨキ
BEAT
ヨキ
BEAUTIFUL FACE..

THE RED BIRTH-MARK...ON MY CHEEK...
I'M...EM-BARRASSED
BEAT
ヨキ
BEAT
ヨキ
POUND
ヨキ
POUND
ヨキ
POUND
ヨキ

- - - -
SU
OSONO.
Y- YES.
I CAN SEE NOTHING.
DOK
DOK
DOK
DOK
CERTAINLY NOT THAT.
SQUEEZE
AH...



STORY 25: SNAKE EYES LOTTERY

I WILL PLAY THE PART OF THE ABDUCTED GROOM
AND GO INTO THE KATÔ MANSION.

BUT YOU SAID...
URUSHIDO KÔSHICHIRO SPLIT YOUR MASK...

B-BUT JYUBEI-SAMA.

IN THE DARK AND RAIN, NO ONE WILL REMEMBER UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS.
THE ENEMY ONLY SAW THE LEFT SIDE OF MY FACE AND MY GOOD EYE.
HMM.
THEN I WILL PLAY A GROOM WHO IS BLIND IN BOTH EYES.
HOW'S THAT?
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
YOU'VE BEEN WEARING A MASK TO HIDE YOUR BAD EYE AND IDENTITY...
BUT JYUBEI-SAMA...

AH!
EH?
.....

THEY PROBABLY JUST GO AFTER THOSE REPUTED TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE COUPLE.
BESIDES,
THEY WON'T REMEMBER THE FACE OF EVERYONE THEY ABDUCT.

MAYBE A LITTLE MAKEUP...YOU THINK THAT'LL HELP?
RUB
RUB
TROUBLE IS,
I'M A FAR CRY FROM A HANDSOME MAN!

SENSEI JYÛBEI IS THE MOST HANDSOME MAN IN JAPAN!!
OH NOO!
SMILE
SMILE
SMILE
SMILE
.....
.....
.....
CHUCKLE
クスッ

NOW I NEED A BRIDE.
HM...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
THE ENEMY LIKELY WON'T QUIBBLE OVER THE MAN...
...THEN I SHALL PLAY THE GROOM.
...A BRIDE...

WE NEED TO FIND A COUPLE ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.
WE MUST EXPLAIN THE MATTER
AND REPLACE BOTH THE BRIDE AND GROOM.
...AND THE BRIDE...
WILL GO INSIDE THE KATÔ MANSION.
BUT SOONER OR LATER WE WILL BE FOUND OUT.
OF COURSE, I DON'T PLAN TO GET YOU KILLED WHILE I AM THERE...

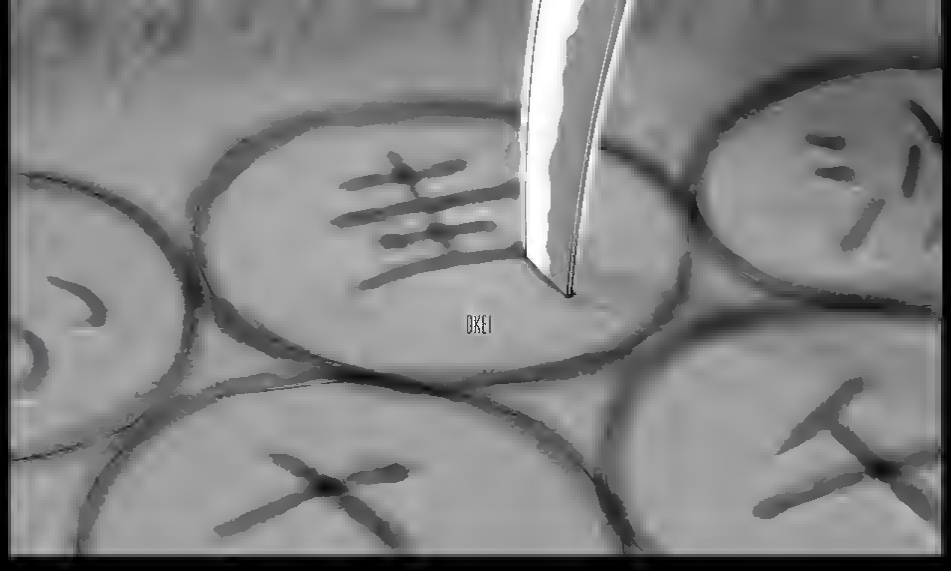
P-PLEASE LET ME GO!!
I WANT ANY CHANCE TO STRIKE DOWN KATÔ AKINARI!!
NO. OUR GOAL THIS TIME IS TO PRESERVE LADY TENJUIN'S GOOD NAME!
WE MUST STOP THE SEVEN SPEARS' EVIL DEEDS FIRST.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE.
OHH...

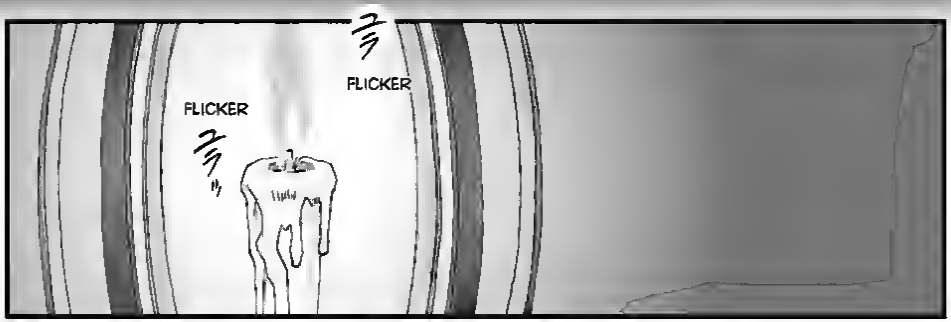
HE GROWS FEARFUL AND FLUSTERED BY OUR SHADOW.
AKINARI IS OUT OF HIS SENSES.
. . . .
ALL RIGHT?
THEN SHAME HIM IN A WAY THAT IS A BETTER REVENGE THAN DEATH!
LET HIM LIVE AWHILE IN THIS HELL.
I UNDER-STAND.

THINK IT OVER. THE ONE WHO WILL ACT AS MY BRIDE MAY DIE IN VAIN...
KNOWING THIS...WHO WISHES TO GO?
PLEASE LET ME GO!!

THEN WE SHALL CHOOSE BY LOTTERY.
OSAWA
OKEI
OFUE
OTOKI
SAKURA
HM...
.....
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WILL BE.
TAP
トン
TAP
トン
ALL RIGHT?

STAB


OKE!


FLICKER
FLICKER

OSONO...

GENTATSU... SAMA...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THERE THERE.
PAT
ポン
PAT
ポン
SQUEEZE
ギュッ

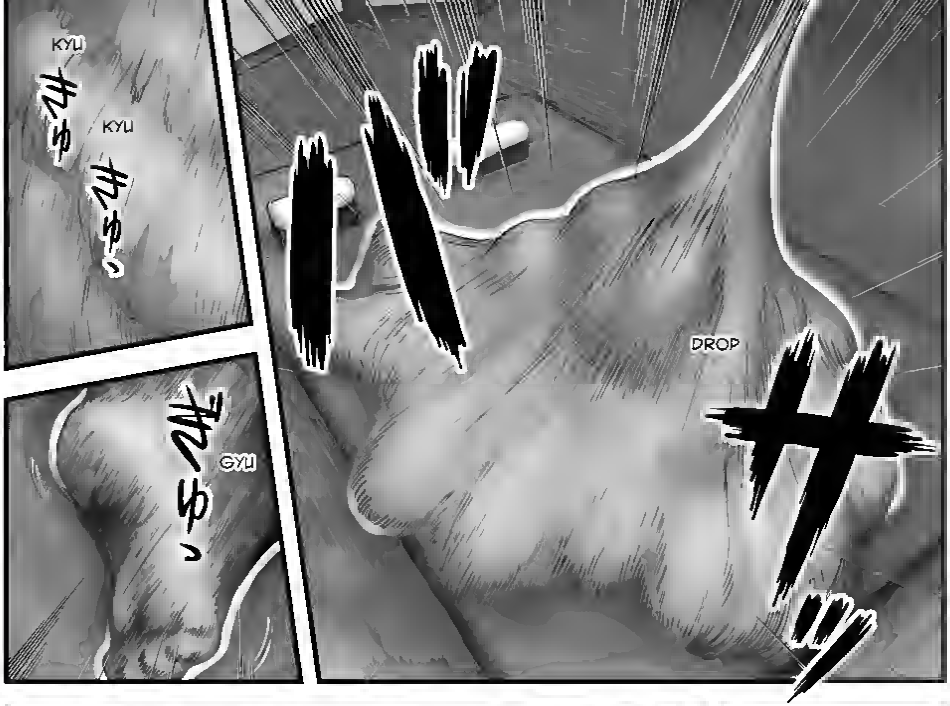
COME ON.
OSONO...
MAKE YOUR MOVE!

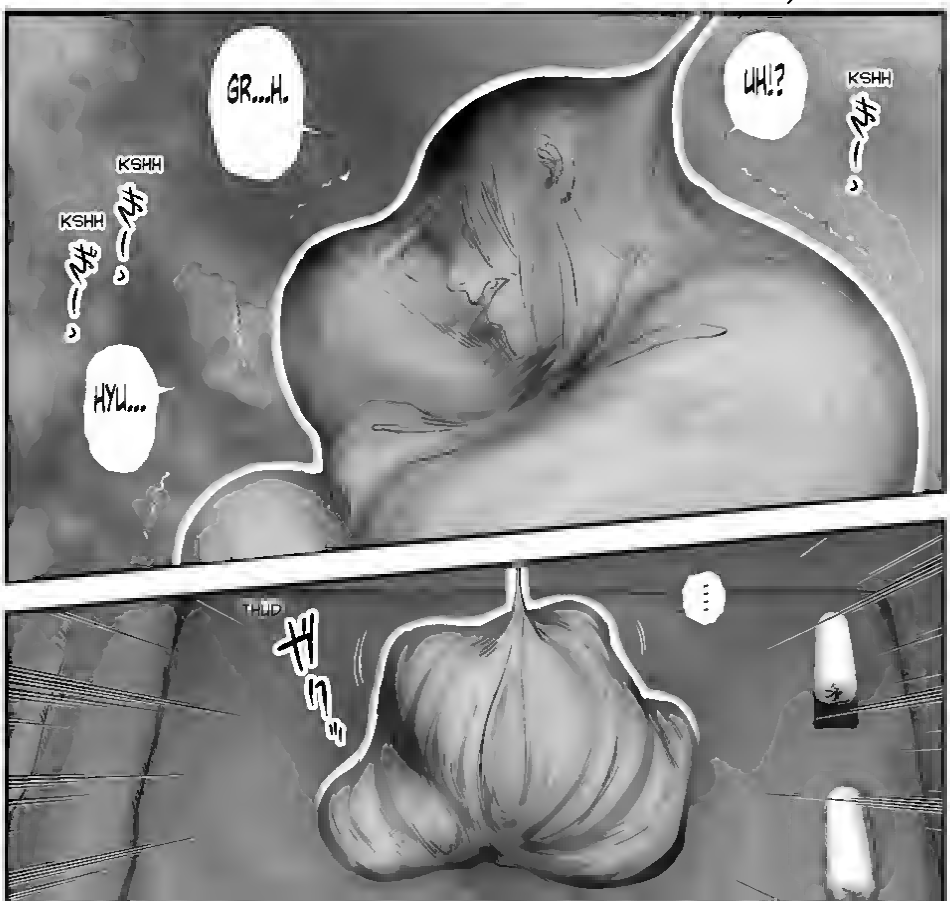
BEHIND THE CEILING!!
STORY 25 END

AH...
PULL
GEN-TATSU-SAMA...
OSONO.
...I WAS A WIFE ONCE...
...AND HERE I AM... PANDERING OVER PLAYING ONE...
DOK
DOK
DOK
SQUEEZE

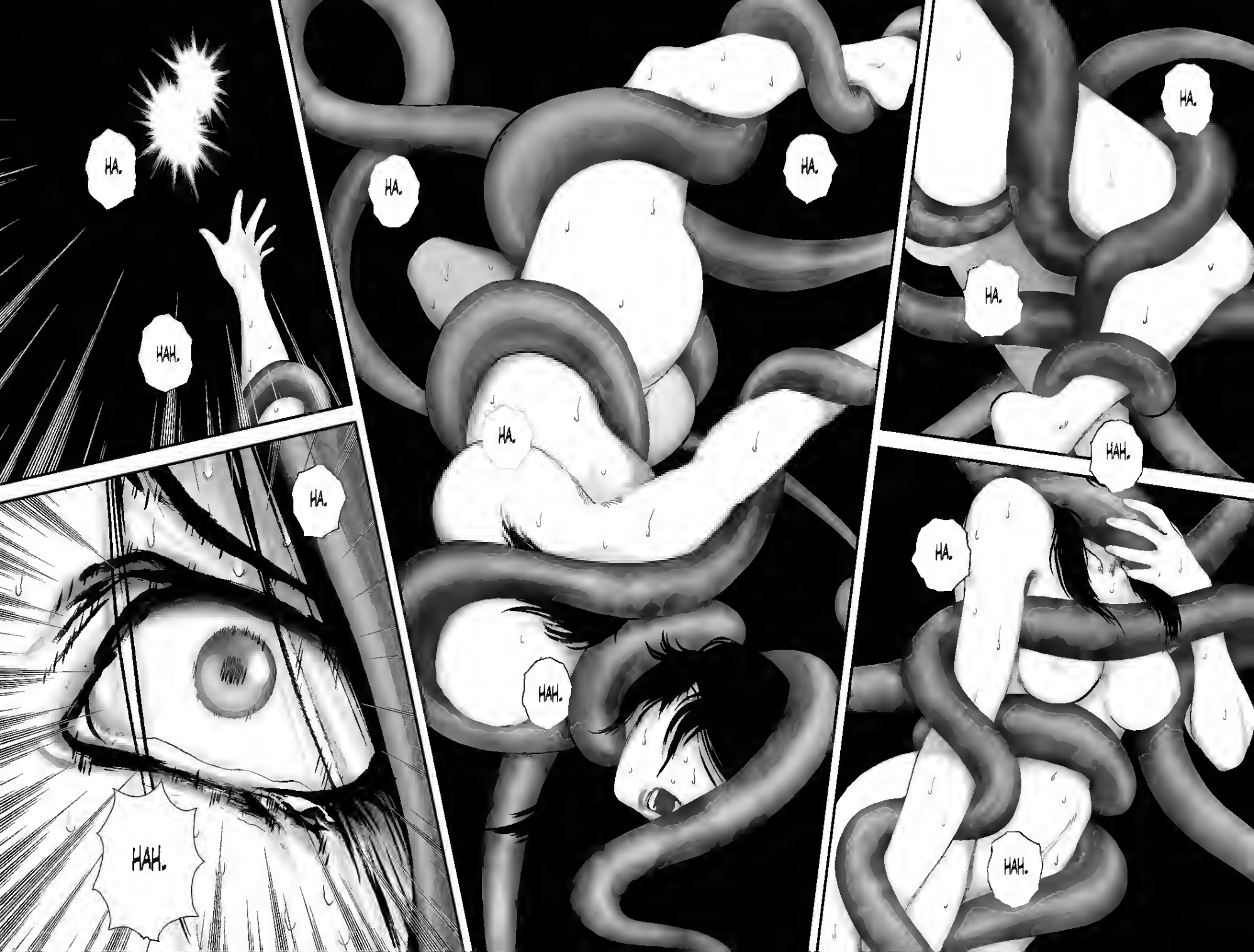
...MY HUSBAND.
...OKEI...
...OKEI...
JYÛZABURÔ-SAMA...
GU
AH...
...GEN-TATSU-SAMA.
SQUEEZE

STORY 26: BRIDE IN HELL


KYU
KYU
DROP
GYU


GR...H.
UH!?
KSHH
KSHH
KSHH
HYU...
THUD

とん
LAND
とん
LAND


HA.
HAH.
HA.
HAH.
HA.
HA.
HA.
HAH.
HA.
HA.
HAH.
HA.
HAH.

HAH.
SHUDDER
HUH.
KA...KATÔ AKINARI!
HEHEH...I HEAR YOU HAVE A BIRTHMARK ON YOUR CHEEK.

YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE! KUKUKU...
OH HO!
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
RIP
FLAIL
FLAIL
HERE.
PULL
PULL
!!
A SAMURAI'S PITY!
KUH.
I'LL LET YOU KEEP YOUR HOOD!
SLIDE
OF COURSE THEY ALL ACTED THAT WAY AT FIRST!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
OW!
GSHH

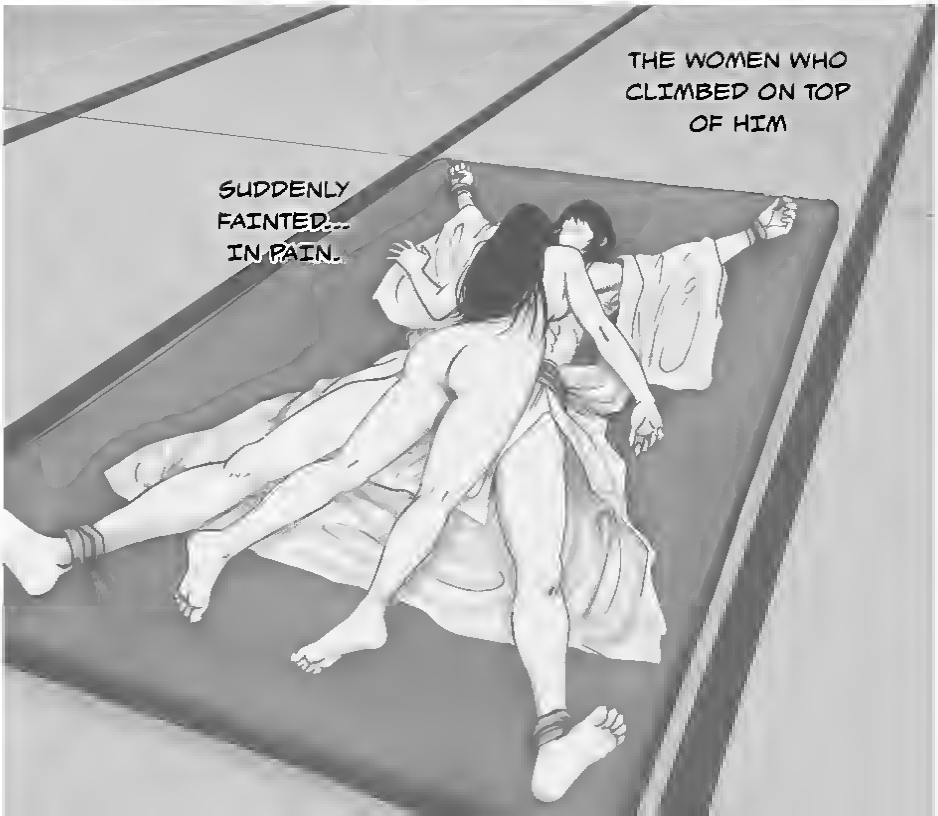
THUD
GUH.
YOU HAVE WHITE SKIN LIKE SNOW...OSONO.
I'LL HAVE YOU NOW. HEHEH...
BA
OHH.
OHH.

SWING
NO.
GRAB
WHOA.
HEH.
UH...
GO ON! KEEP STRUGGLING!
THERE NOW.
FLAILING
FLAILING
FLAILING
IT'S NOT FUN WITHOUT A FIGHT!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
JYÛ...
...JYÛBEI-SAMA...

MY LORD.
!!!
HUH!?
JYÛBEI-SAMA!!
!
WHAT, GINSHIRÔ?
IT'S ABOUT MISAWA GENTATSU...
THE GROOM DOWNSTAIRS...

HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE AWAKE BUT...
A MOST STRANGE MAN.

I WAS SO ENTERTAINED UP HERE, I FORGOT TO LOOK IN DOWNSTAIRS.
OHH!


SUDDENLY FAINTED... IN PAIN.
THE WOMEN WHO CLIMBED ON TOP OF HIM

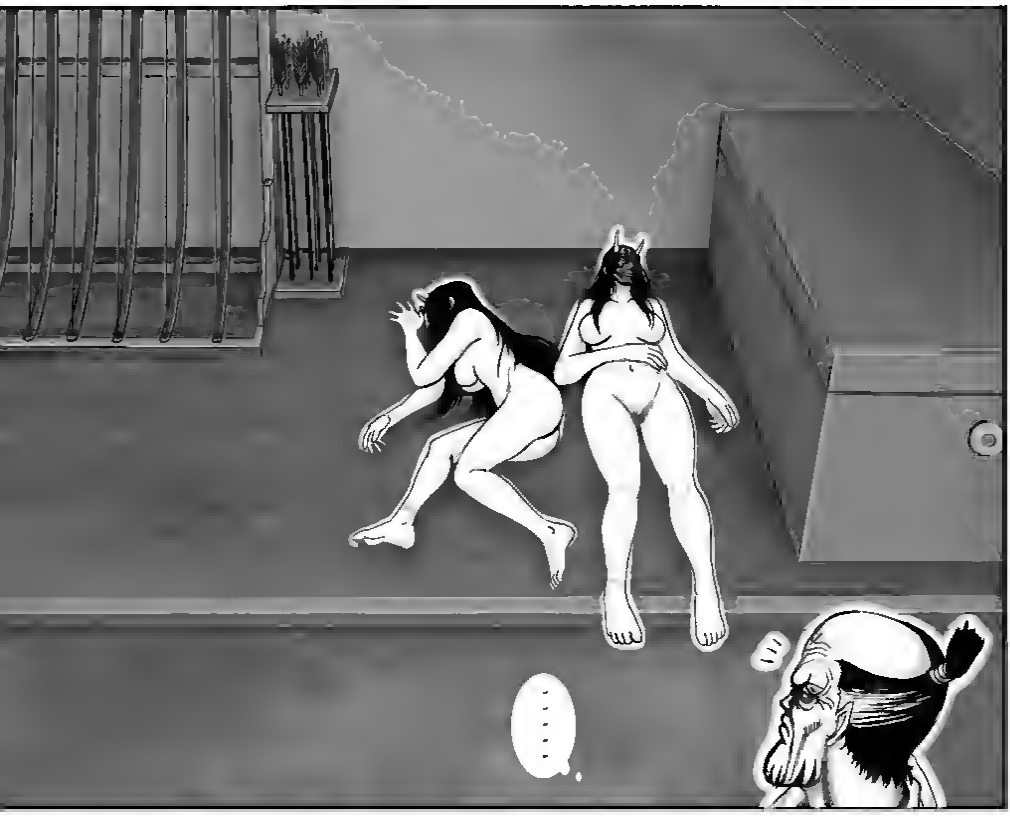
HM...
YANK

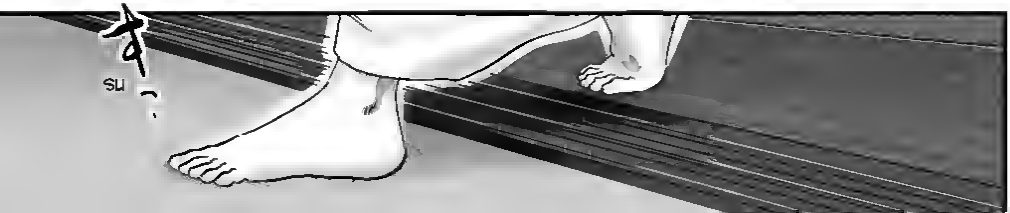
WHAT?

CREAK
CREAK

I'LL HAVE MY FUN LATER...
FINE, LET'S HAVE A LOOK.

CREAK
CREAK


!!
.....


su

HM.
MOVE HER OUT OF THE WAY.
IS THAT HIM? THE SO-CALLED STRANGE GROOM?
THUD
A THIRD WOMAN FAINTED JUST NOW...

HE. . .HASN'T AWAKENED FROM GINSHIRŌ'S NET?
. . . . . .

SNORE.
STORY 26 END

THE BRIDE WAS SELF-CONSCIOUS OF HER BIRTHMARK AND WAS LATE TO MARRY...AND ENDED UP WITH THIS ONE.
THE RUMOR IS...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
FOR A NEWLYWED,
A BIT OLD
DID HE REALLY MAKE THREE WOMEN FAINT IN HIS SLEEP?
BUT...

WAKE HIM.
...
SNORE.
SU
STING
STING
STING
STING
PAKIIIN

STORY 27: BRIDE IN HELL (2)

...
UH...
AH...
H...
...AH...
TWITCH
ピク
ピク

WH...WHERE ARE YOU, OSONO?
OSONOHH—

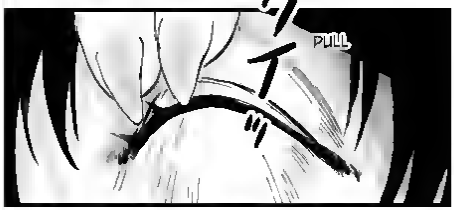
OSONO!?
O... OSONO...
GU
GU
ｱﾝ
ｱﾝ
ｱﾝ

THIS IS NOT THE TORIYAMA MANSION!
SHUT UP!

WH...WHO IS SPEAKING...WHO ARE YOU?
.....
EH?...
UH?...

HANNYA BANDITS.
WE ARE THE...
GRIN

SU
UH...


PULL

CLOSED SHUT... THE REAL GENTATSU? MM...

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HE-HELP... OSONO...
HELP MEEEE.
AHH...
HA-HANNYA BANDITS!?
GRF.
STOMP
PITIFUL FOOL!
HMPH!
UHH...
FROD
FROD
HELP MEEEE...

TIRED FROM THE LONG NIGHTS...
THE WOMEN PROBABLY JUST HAPPENED TO FAINT.
GRR
KILL HIM. IF HE'S TROUBLE-SOME.
GG
!?
ZU
BA

BOOM
GWEH!
LO-LORD!
DADA
TCH.
GRAB
FLIP

HUH.
DON'T MOVE!!
ZAZA
BISSH
HUH?
DANGL

LIKE THIS.
GG
GYU
WHEN MY STOMACH AND HER STOMACH WERE PRESSED AGAINST EACH OTHER.
LIKE SO.
MADE HER FAINT!
GG
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME TAKING SOMEONE OUT WITH MY STOMACH...
WENT RATHER WELL.

BA
HOLD IT!
BRR
BRR
BRR
Y-YOU...
COULDN'T YOU TELL WHAT WAS HAPPENING?
SURE THERE WAS NO SOUND BUT...
YOU MEAN TO TAUNT US!!
HE'S...TOO DISGUSTING.
.....
SHAKE
SHAKE
USED MY ELBOW ON HIM.
I-IMPOSSIBLE! HIS EYES...
....HANNYA MASK...
WH-WHO ARE YOU!?

*A Japanese feudal lord

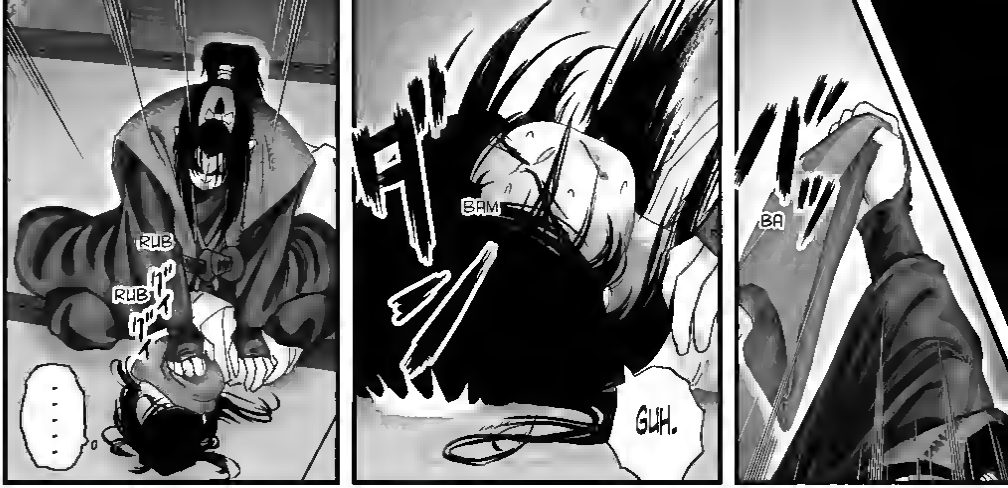
YOU!
STEP
THAT IS THE DAIMYO* OF THE 400,000 KOKU AIZU CLAN.
YOU BETTER KNOW THIS!!
NOW NOW, I SAID DON'T MOVE
YANK
OR I'LL SNAP YOUR PRECIOUS LORD'S NECK.

GRR
GRR
Y-YOU...

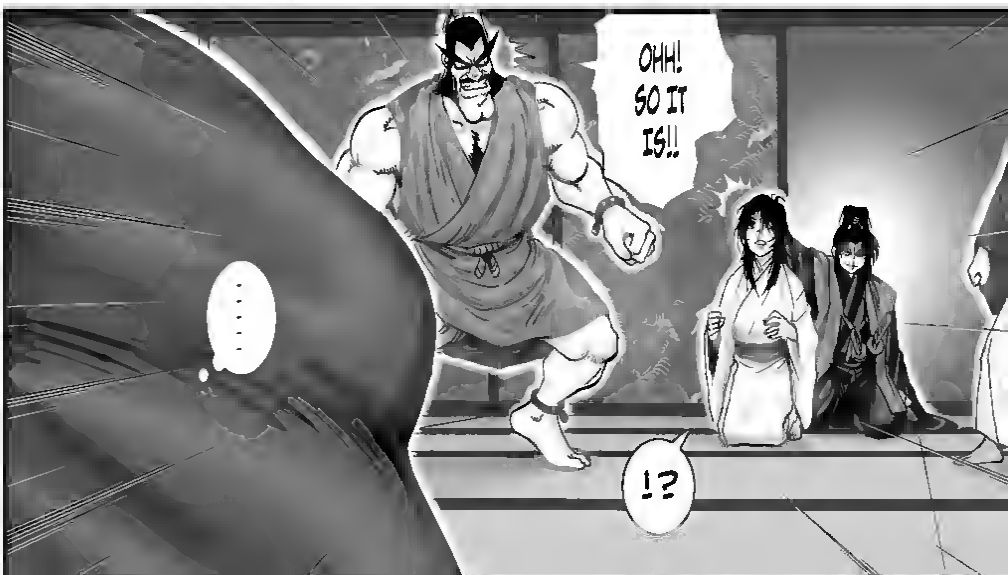
STOMP
THAT WOMAN!!

!

BAM
TWITCH


RUB
RUB
BAM
BA
GUH.

LOOK! IT'S HORI VASSAL INABA JYÛZABURÔ'S WIFE.
OKEI!!


OHH! SO IT IS!!
!?

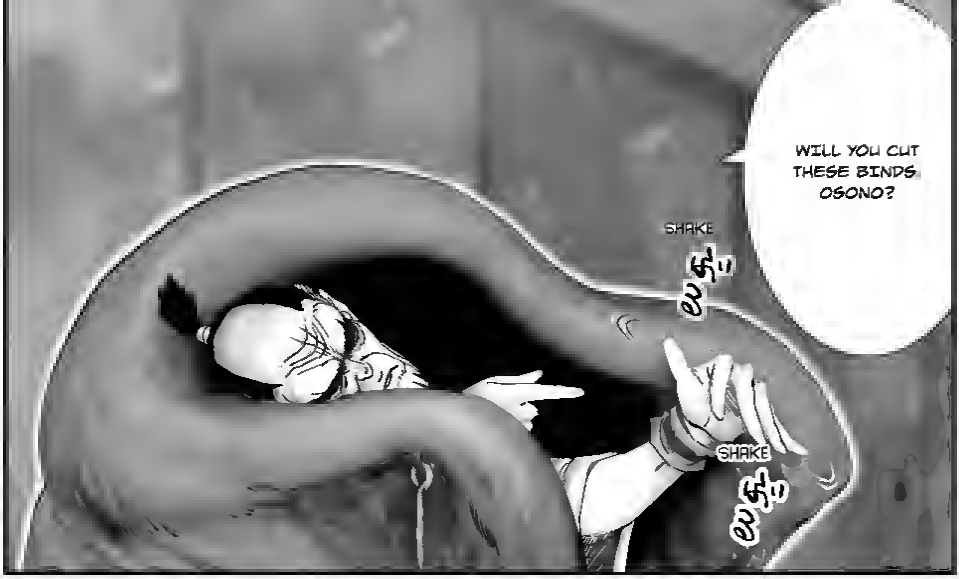
GE...GENTATSU-SAMA!
PHEW
OHH. THAT VOICE IS OSONO!
OSONO...I WAS TRICKED.
KNOWING I AM BLIND... THEY MADE ME LIE WITH...
THIS OLD MAN INSTEAD OF WITH YOU.

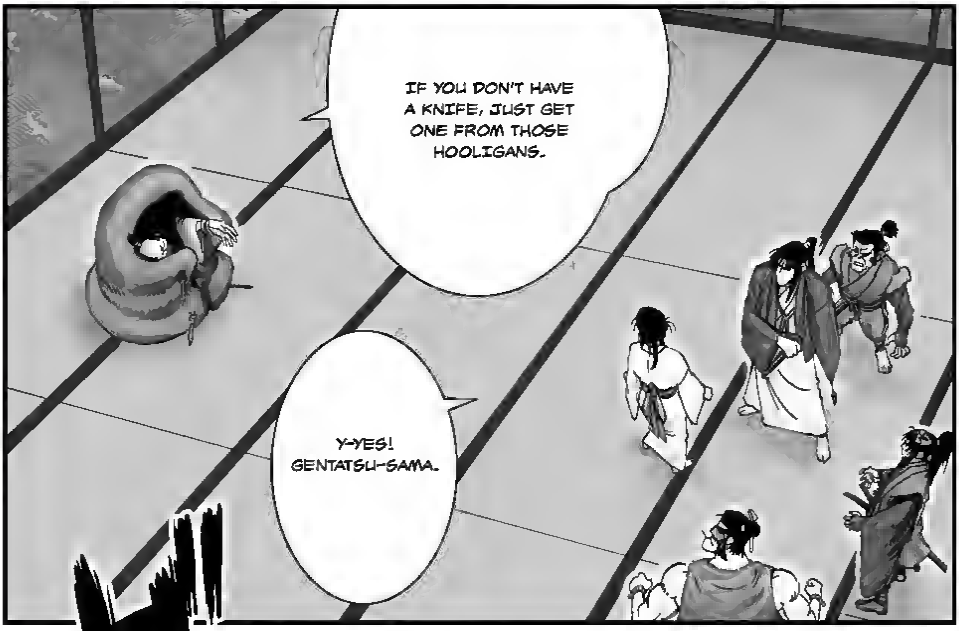
...I CAME HERE..... ON MY OWN ACCORD...
YOUR FUN IS OVER IMPOSTER!
NOW RELEASE HIM QUIETLY.
KOH
OR DO YOU WANT ME TO CUT OFF HER HEAD?

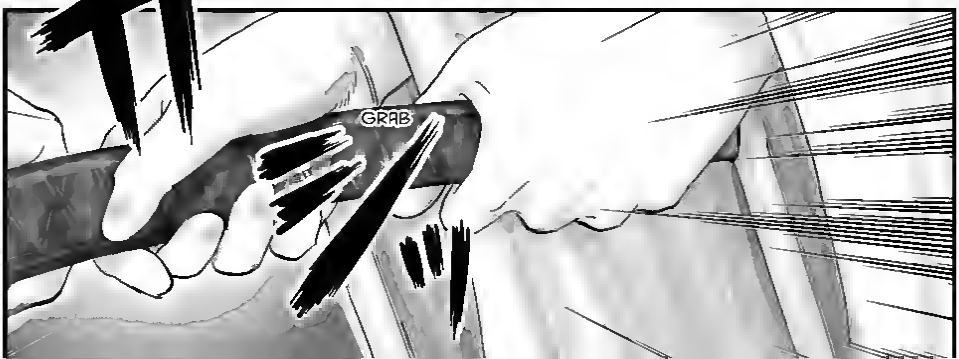
DO IT! DRAW YOUR SWORD AND CUT ME DOWN!
DO IT!
QU--QUIT IT! DON'T BE RASH, KÔSHICHIRÔ!!
GRR
ガシッ
YOU....
KCH
カキッ
YANK
ワイワイ
KÔSHI-CHIRÔ!!
DO YOU THINK I AM AFRAID TO DIE,

IF YOU KILL OSONO...

PAT
PAT
THIS DAIMYÔ IS AS GOOD AS DEAD.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT, KÔSHICHIRÔ.
STORY 27 END


WILL YOU CUT THESE BINDS, OSONO?
SHAKE
SHAKE


IF YOU DON'T HAVE A KNIFE, JUST GET ONE FROM THOSE HOOLIGANS.
Y-YES! GENTATSU-SAMA.


GRAB

STORY 28: BRIDE IN HELL (3)
GIVE ME YOUR SWORD, KÔSHI-CHIRÔ!
GLARE
WANT TO DIE!!
Y... YOU!
GRIND
!!
PULL
LISTEN TO MY BRIDE.
SMACK
SMACK
NOW WAIT. IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR LORD'S NECK BROKEN.

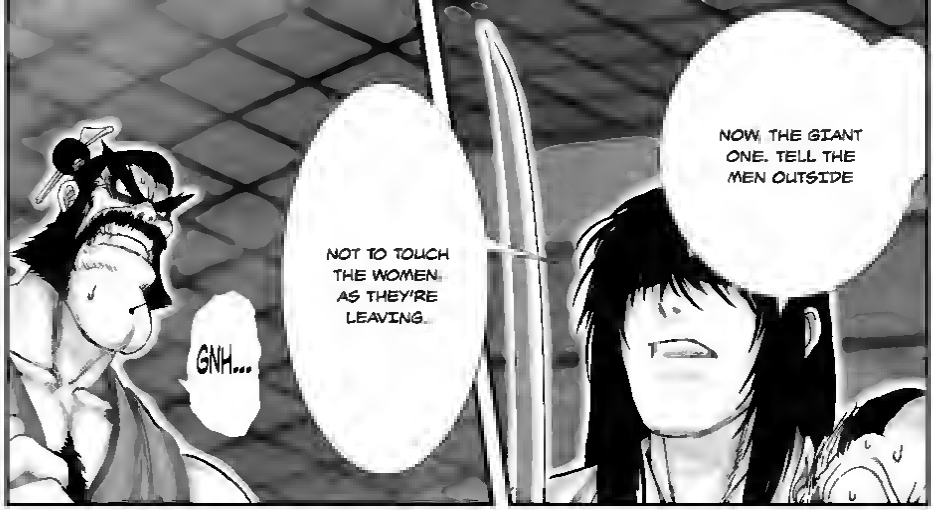
SLIDE
CALM DOWN! YOU MUST BEAR IT!!
K-
KÔSHI-CHIRÔ!
DASH
SO...
THERE'S ONE REASONABLE MAN.
GENTATSU-SAMA.
RUN
WE MUST SAVE OUR LORD...
KU...
CLINK
IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR TWO HEADS IS HARDLY A FAIR TRADE.
CLUNK
THE HEAD OF AIZU'S CLAN HEAD

GOOD THINKING.
MM.
KCH
RENO
GRIND
...
...HH...
A... AH...?
NOW.
DOSS
TWITCH
KU.

LISTEN-ING?
NOW.
YOU CAN SAVE HIM UNDER TWO CONDITIONS.
. . . .
STAGGER
STAGGER

HM...THEN RELEASE THE WOMEN UPSTAIRS.
!
WE'RE LISTENING. WE'RE LISTENING!!
YES!
YOU...
ZA

SQUEEZE
GRH.
NEV...
DON'T DO IT!!
N-NEVER!!
GOOD. OSONO, THE WOMEN.
YES! GENTATSU-SAMA.
WE'LL RELEASE THE WOMEN!!
S-STOP! ALL RIGHT!
STEP
STEP
STEP
SLIDE
RUNNING


NOW, THE GIANT ONE. TELL THE MEN OUTSIDE
NOT TO TOUCH THE WOMEN, AS THEY'RE LEAVING.
GNH...

YOU, THE APE.
YOU STILL HAVE ONE DOG. BRING HIM HERE AND TIE HIM UP.

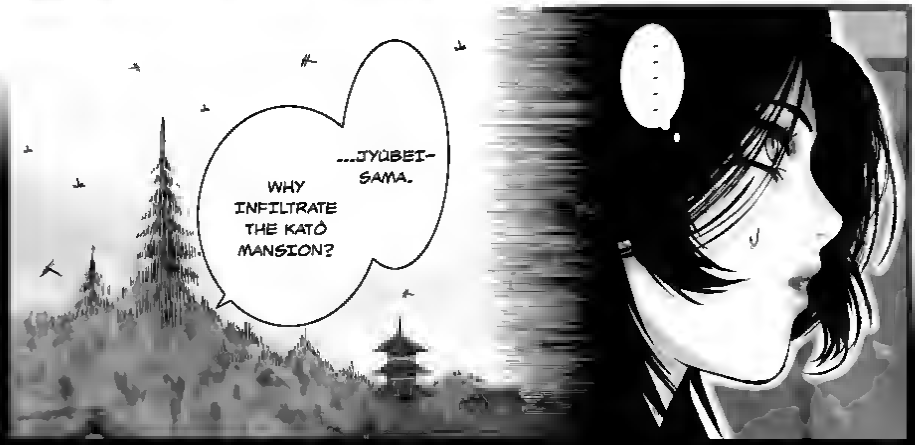
CROWD

SCATTER
SCATTER
SCATTER
DASH
TATATA

NOW IT'S HIS TURN.
YANK
!?

IT'S FINISHED, GENTATSU-SAMA!
GOOD.

SETTLE DOWN, SETTLE DOWN.
I WON'T KILL HIM!
Y-YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD SPARE HIM!


...JYUBEI-SAMA.
WHY INFILTRATE THE KATÔ MANSION?
...

COME CLOSER...

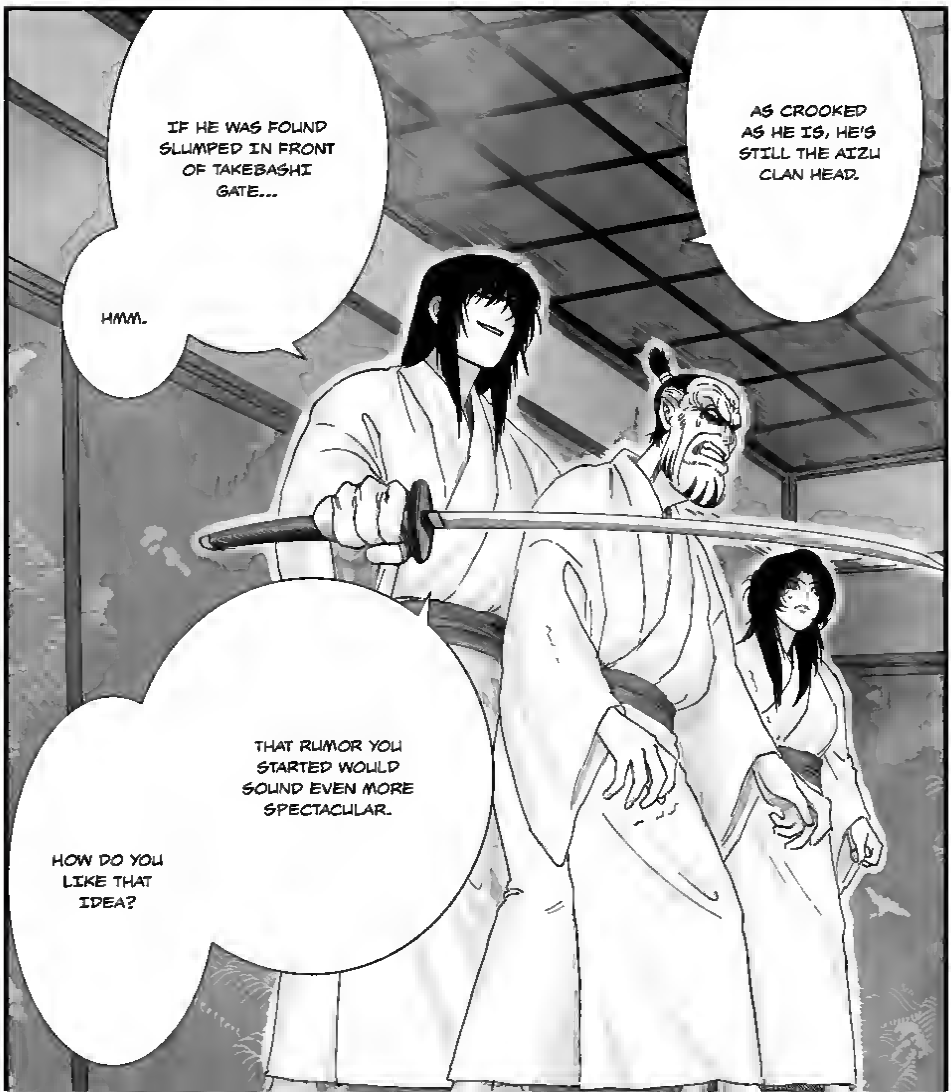
WHAT
IS IT...?

I HAVE A SCHEME TO PUT AN END...
TO THEIR EVIL DEEDS

AND TO STOP THE HANNYA BANDITS...
TO SHAME AKINARI TO A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH
.....

CAST HIM
OFF IN FRONT OF TAKEBASHI GATE!!
!!

Y-YOU'RE
WHA...
WH-


IF HE WAS FOUND SLUMPED IN FRONT OF TAKEBASHI GATE...
HMM.
AS CROOKED AS HE IS, HE'S STILL THE AIZU CLAN HEAD.
THAT RUMOR YOU STARTED WOULD SOUND EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT IDEA?

RIDICULOUS!!
DO SOMETHING!!
GR...
D...
DON'T BE...
THEN HIS HEAD WILL GO FLYING... IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
MM?
CHK
GUI
OH...NO?
UH...
MY LORD! YOUR LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT.
WE MUST DO AS HE...
WA-WAIT!
ALL RIGHT!

スラッ
SLIDE
!?

ピシャ
SLAM
BUT WE'LL KILL THEM AND LEAVE THEM AT TAKEBASHI GATE!
THE THREE THAT FAINTED. . .THEY MAY BE THE LORD'S MISTRESSES

OH!

HUH!?
ME AND THIS LORD...
AND THE APE WILL HAVE TO CARRY THEM OUT.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM WITH US. RIGHT, OSONO?
HM, THAT'S TROUBLING...
WELL, YOU KNOW.
KCH
ANY FUNNY BUSINESS AND...
SW
TAP
WALK.

KU.
MY LORD!
GRAB
GAKKON

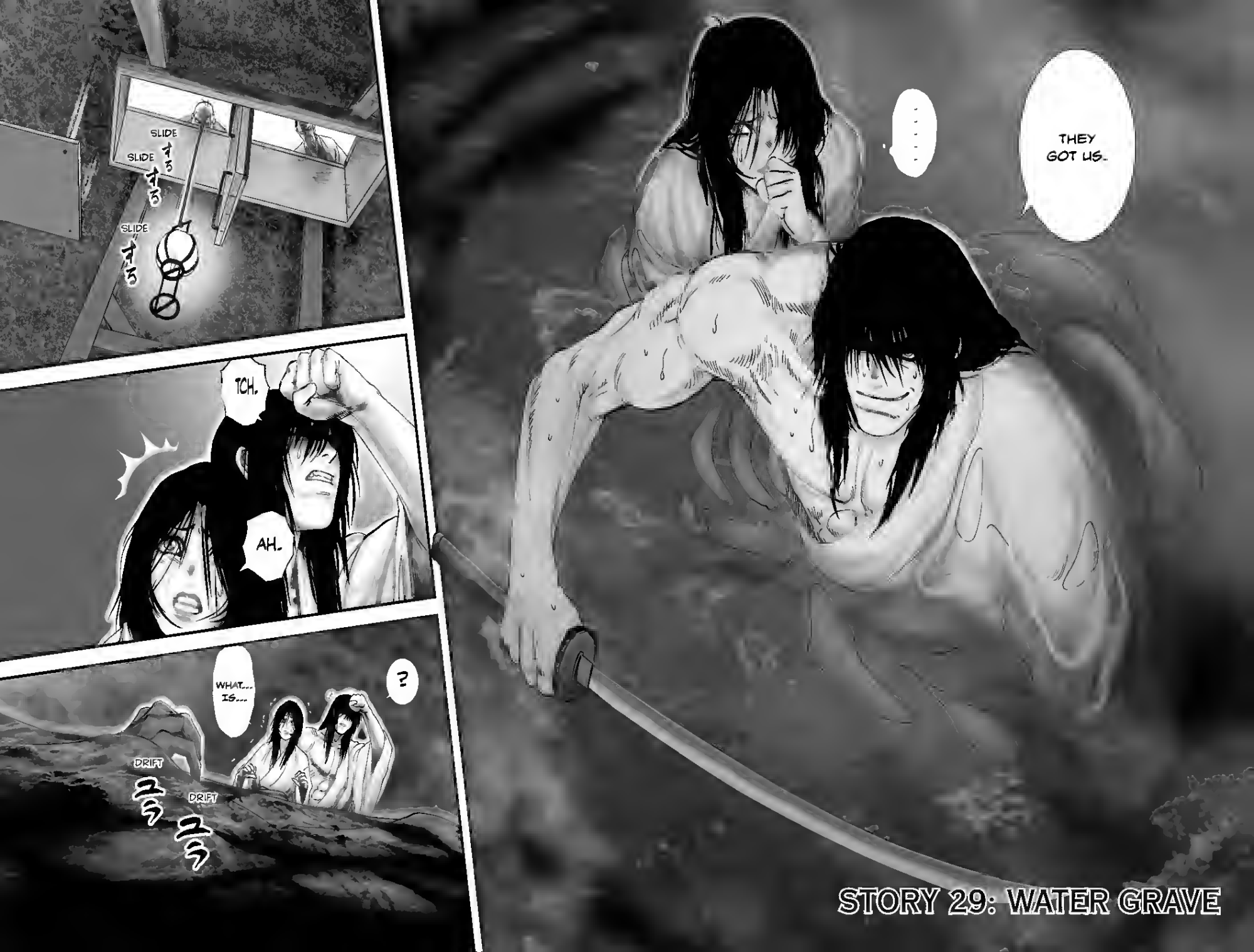
LURCH
のそっ
HAH.
HAH.
HAH.
GRIN
ニヤリ
G-GOOD WORK! ICHIGANBÔ!!
...
...
WHSSHH
GO

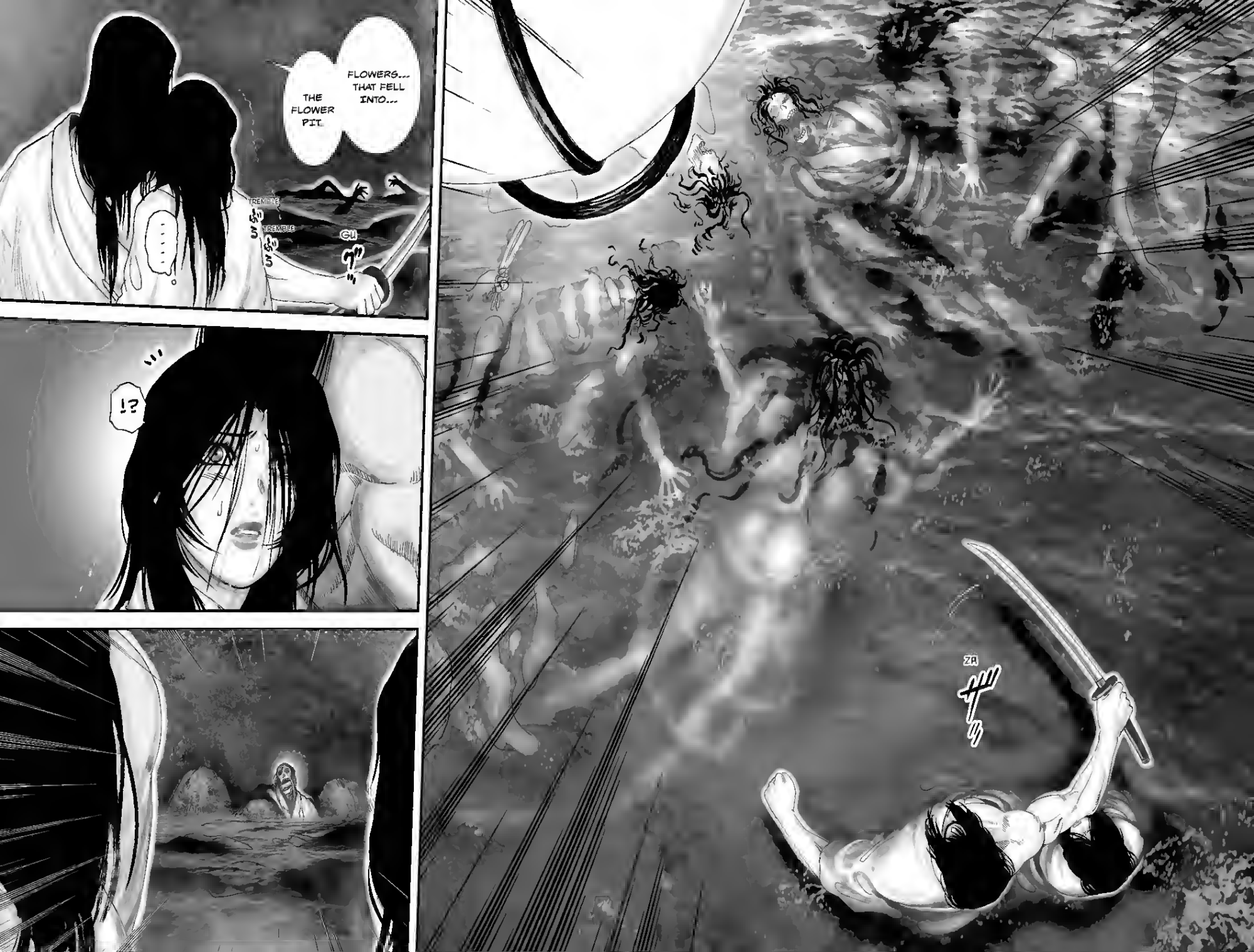
SPLASH
STORY 28 END

I'VE BEEN GRINDING MY TEETH
WAITING FOR YOUR SIGNAL.
GRIN
GOOD!
WELL DONE, ICHIGANBÔ!!
GET TENMARU! GET THE HORSES! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!!
GO AFTER THE WOMEN! THERE'LL BE TROUBLE IF THEY GO TO THE AUTHORITIES.
HAH!?
HAH!?
HAH!?
TH-
THAT'S RIGHT!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

WHO...
WAS HE...
YOU WERE IN SOME TROUBLE, MY LORD.
HAH
HAH
HAH
STOMP
STOMP
RATTLE
RATTLE
QUITE SKILLED DESPITE BEING BLIND...
I'VE NEVER HEARD...
OF SUCH A BLIND SWORDS-
PLUNGE

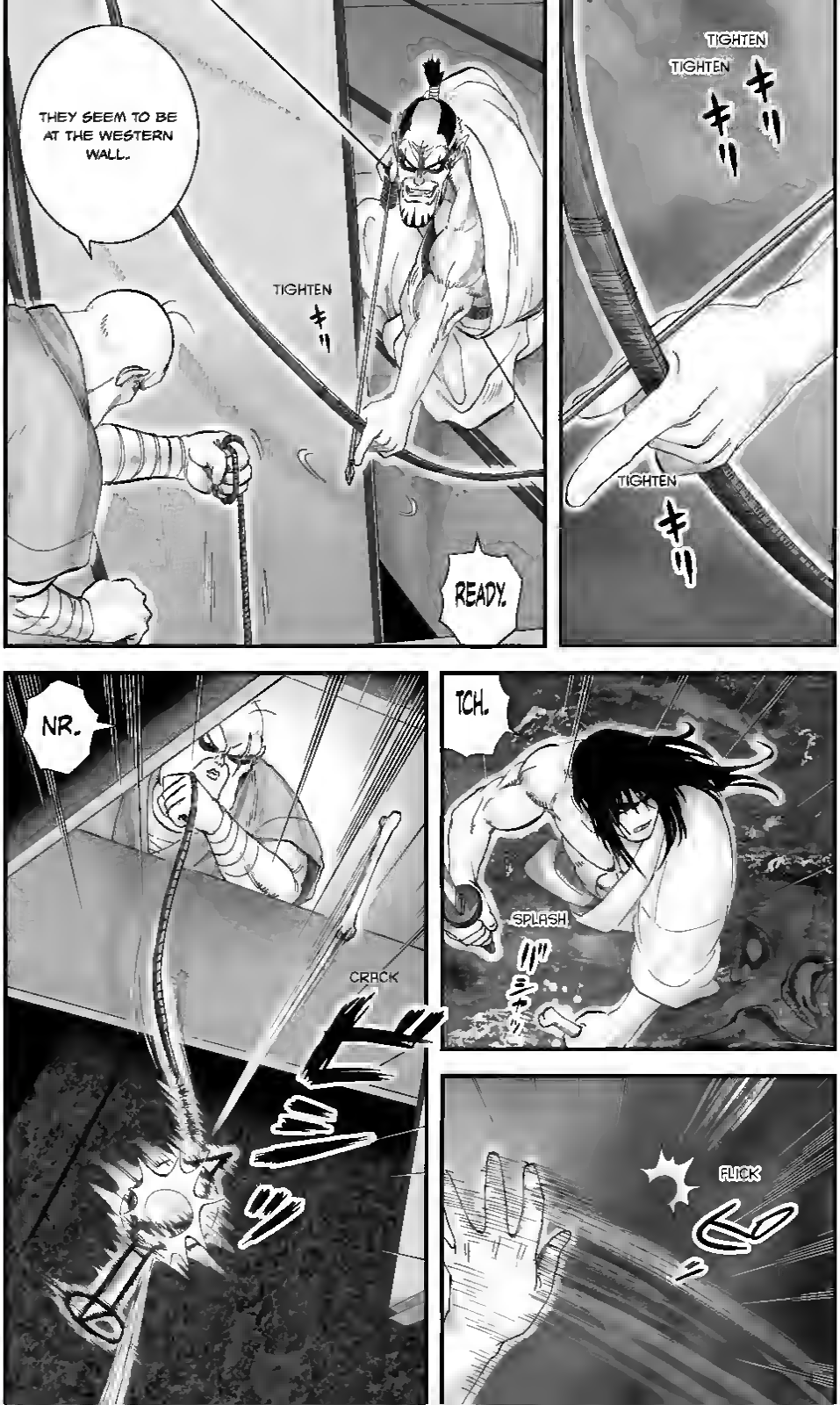
KU.
SPLASH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT... OSONO?
Y...YES, I'M FINE...
GEN...TATSU-SAMA.
HAH
HAH
.....


SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
TCH.
AH.
WHAT... IS...
?
DRIFT
DRIFT
THEY GOT US.
.....
STORY 29: WATER GRAVE


FLOWERS... THAT FELL INTO...
THE FLOWER PIT
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
GU
!?
ZA

...AH...

AH.
AHHHHH.
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
OSONO!


THEY SEEM TO BE AT THE WESTERN WALL.
TIGHTEN
キリ
READY.
TIGHTEN
TIGHTEN
キリ
キリ
TIGHTEN
キリ
NR.
CRACK
TCH.
SPLASH
FLICK

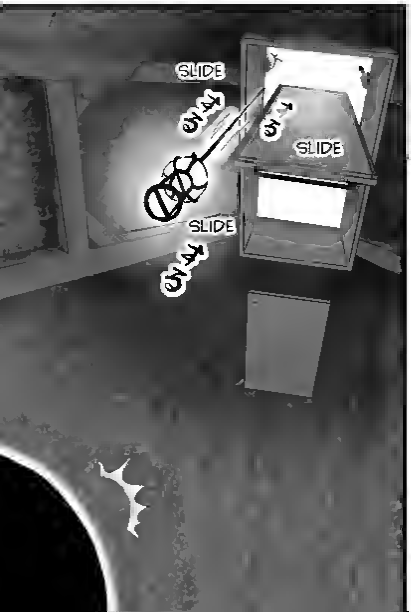
WHSHH
OUCH.
KA
PI
AHH...
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
PLUNGE
CLANG

HOLD ON, OKEI!
SPLASH
A...
AH... H...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WAHA-HAHA-HAHA.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE IN HELL, HANNYA MASK?
ANYONE WHO DARES CROSS ME!
ALL ROT AND DIE!!

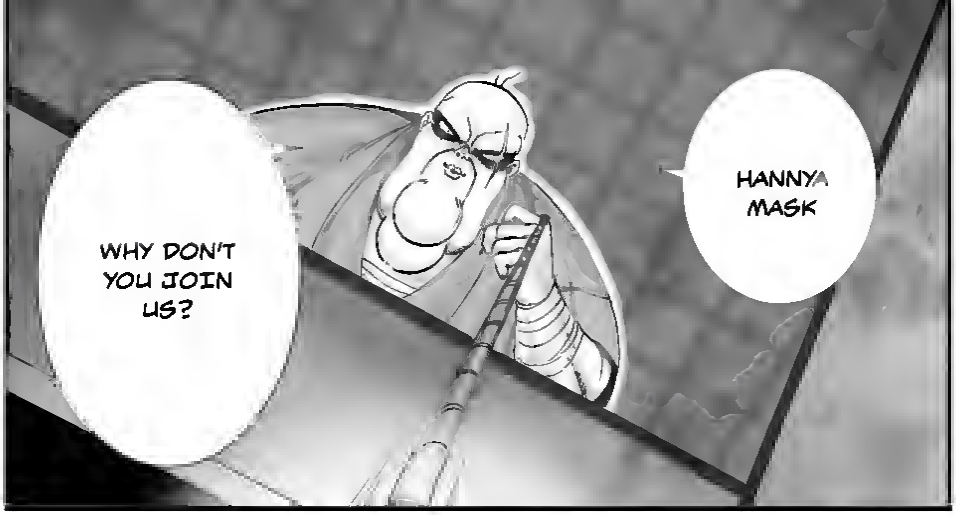
I CAN KILL YOU WITH MY BOW!
NO, NO, DROPPING BOULDERS MIGHT BE BETTER.
OR, I CAN POUR OIL AND LIGHT A TORCH!
...

SON OF A BITCH.
GRR
ぎりっ

BUT MY LORD, IT'S A BIT OF A SHAME TO HAVE TO...
KILL A MAN WITH SUCH SKILL.

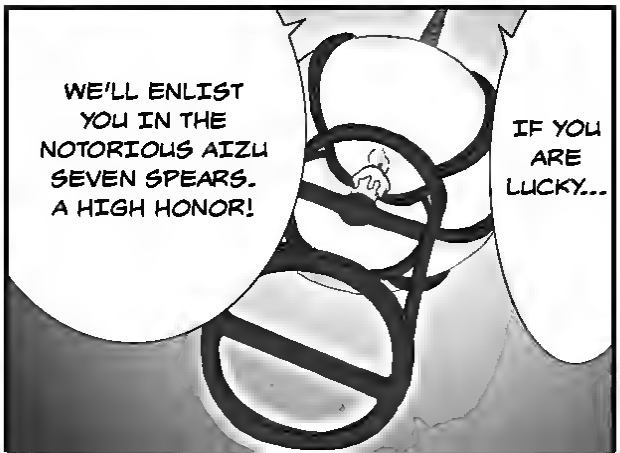

SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE

A MOMENT...
I-IDIOT! WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO...
FLINCH
ビクッ!


HANNYA MASK
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

HUH?

.....


WE'LL ENLIST YOU IN THE NOTORIOUS AIZU SEVEN SPEARS. A HIGH HONOR!
IF YOU ARE LUCKY...

SECOND...
TELL US WHO YOU ARE.
BUT UNDER TWO CONDI-TIONS.
FIRST, TELL US WHERE THE OTHER HORI WOMEN ARE.
GRIN
HMM.
THEN WE WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
SWING
SWING
?

WSHH
MM.
!?
DASH
GA
GR...
OHH.
KUKKUKUKU...
WAHAHAHAHAHA.
.....
N-
NOW...
YOU WILL
DIE!!

BNNN
DIE!!
DIE!!
DIE!!
DIE!!
DIE!!
BSHH
FOOP
FOOP
FOOP
FOOP

SWAY
ゆら
SWAY
ゆら
WHETHER IT TAKES TWO DAYS OR THREE, I'LL TAKE MY SWEET TIME PUTTING AN END TO YOU!!
IT'S A WASTE TO KILL YOU SO QUICKLY!
FINE... YOU'RE AS GOOD AS A CAGED RAT!
HAH
HAH
IT'S USE-LESS TO RESIST....

HMM.
THINGS COULD GET INCONVENIENT LATER IF MY IDENTITY IS KNOWN.
CAN'T OPEN MY EYES.
ICHIGANBÔ SEEMS TO BE WATCHING IF I CAN SEE.

.....
EASIER SAID... THAN DONE.

JYÛBEI-SAMA... DO YOU STILL PLAN...
...TO GET OUT ALIVE?

WSHH
OF COURSE.
BSHH

STORY 29 END

PULL
ギリ
I WILL BURY YOU IN THE ABYSS!!
YOU SEWER RATS!!
TAUT
キリ
TAUT
キリ
TAUT
I'M SORRY, OKEI.
!?
I UNDER-ESTIMATED THEM.... AND TRIFLED WITH THEM TOO MUCH.

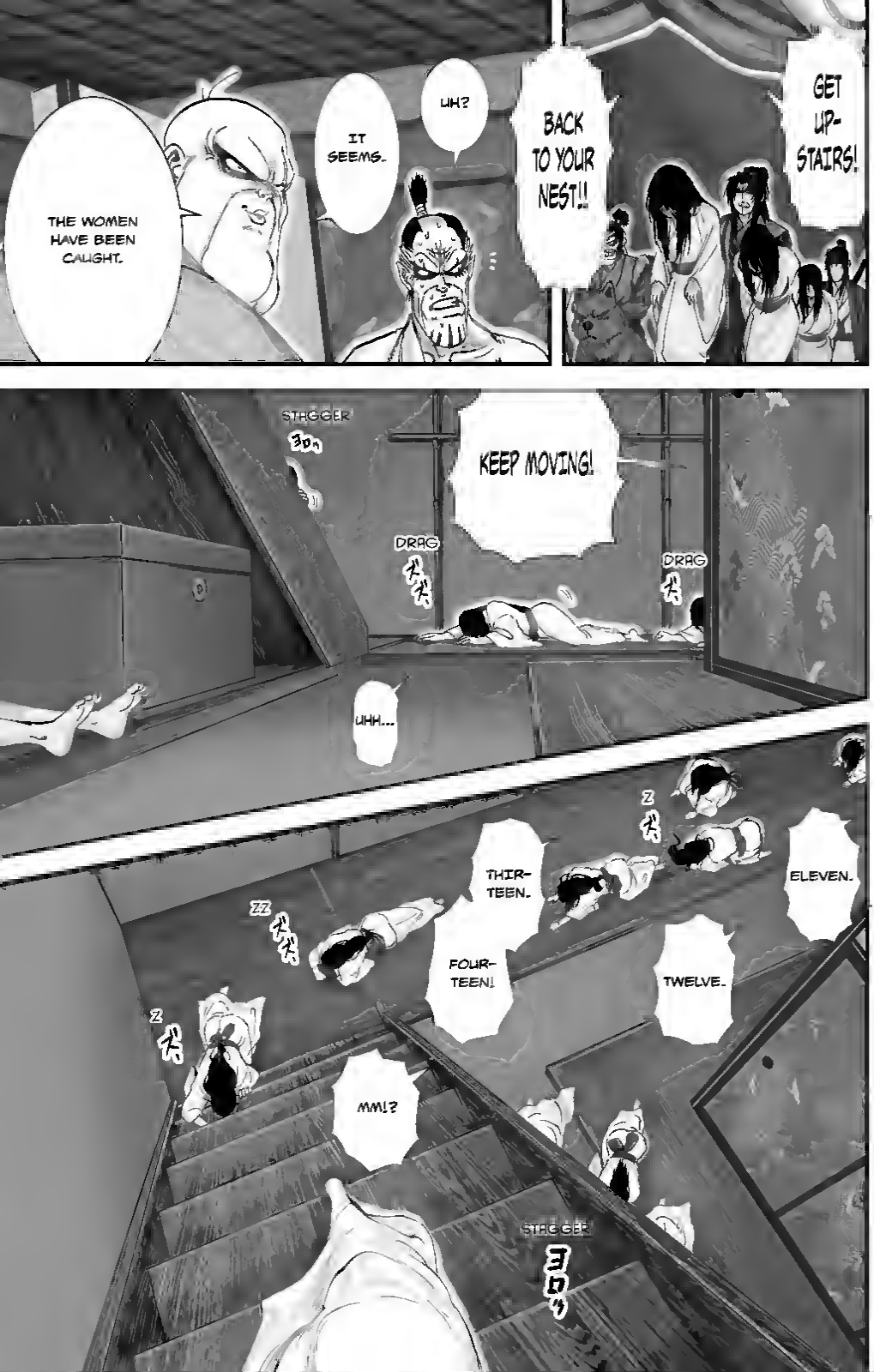
BUT!!
I WOULD BE SATISFIED IF I DIED HERE!
NO!
WHISHH
BECAUSE OF US, YOU WILL ALSO...
SQUEEZE
JYUBEI-SAMA...
!?
PULL
ZA
!!
JYUBEI... SAMA...

KA
SPLASH

DRIFT
DRIFT
SORRY.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT OKEI?
STAGGER
...Y... YES.
...IF I AM...
TO DIE BY THE ENEMY'S ARROW...
CLENCH

WHSHH
SSHH
I...
I WISH TO...DIE BY YOUR HAND INSTEAD.
KRSHH
DON'T BE RASH. OKEI. THERE IS STILL HOPE.
ONE OF THE WOMEN WHO ESCAPED MIGHT HAVE GONE TO THE AUTHORITIES.
...
STORY 30: WATER GRAVE (2)

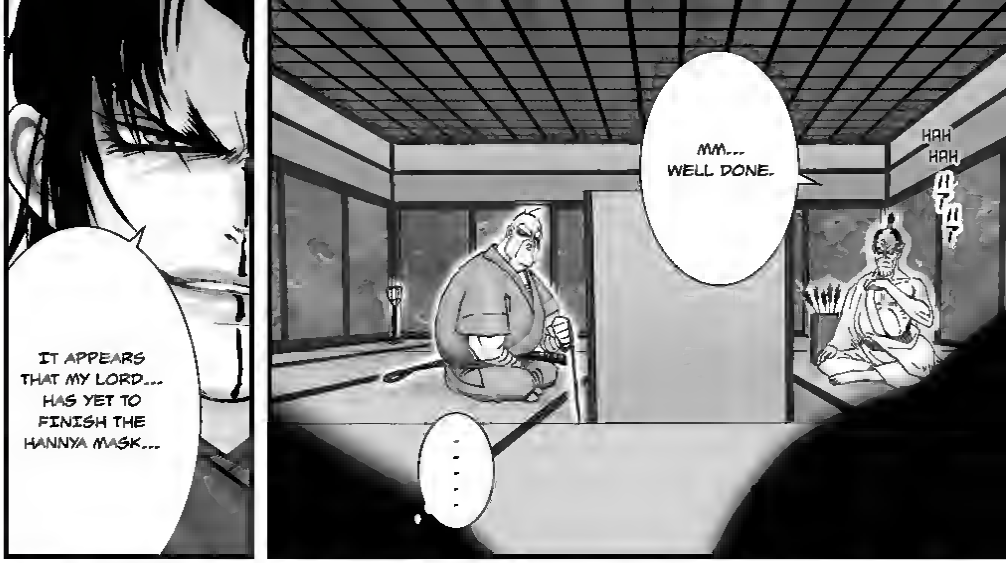
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
GET INSIDE!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
HEH.
AH.
HOW DARE YOU FORGET THE LORD'S KINDNESS.
YOU UNGRATEFUL BITCHES!!
UH...
UHH...


THE WOMEN HAVE BEEN CAUGHT.
IT SEEMS.
UH?
BACK TO YOUR NEST!!
GET UP-STAIRS!
STAGGER
KEEP MOVING!
DRAG
DRAG
UHH...
THIR-TEEN.
ELEVEN.
FOUR-TEEN!
TWELVE.
MM!?
STAGGER

グイッ
GUI
WAIT WAIT, YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING...
FWWP
THERE WERE SEVEN-TEEN ALL TO-GETHER!
HEY, WE'RE MISSING THREE!
WHAT!?

THE REMAINING THREE ARE HERE!
HM YOU'RE RIGHT...
I FORGOT ABOUT THE THREE TAKEN OUT BY THE HANNYA

PUT TENMARU AND SOME GUARDS OUTSIDE IN CASE.
LEAVE THEM.
WE MUST REPORT TO THE LORD.
R...RIGHT.
THESE WOMEN
ARE STILL UNCON-SCIOUS.
GRRRR
ガルルル
WE CAPTURED ALL SEVENTEEN OF THE WOMEN.
MY LORD


IT APPEARS THAT MY LORD... HAS YET TO FINISH THE HANNYA MASK...
MM... WELL DONE.
HAH HAH
...

WHSHH

WHAT?

NO, NO, GINSHIRÒ. OUR LORD WAS HAVING SOME FUN.
THEY'RE LIKE TWO RATS CAUGHT IN A TRAP!
QUITE AN AMUSING SIGHT...

WSHH
WHSHH
KA
KA
KA
SWING
SWING
. . . . .

IS HE REALLY BLIND?
BASTARD.
I'D LIKE TO MATCH SWORDS WITH HIM IN THE LIGHT OF DAY...
WHATEVER THE CASE, IT'S A SHAME TO HAVE TO KILL HIM...
HIS EYES DON'T APPEAR TO BE OPEN...
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL.
HEH
OR WOULD HE...
IN A REAL MATCH... WOULD I WIN
COULD YOU KILL HIM, KÔSHICHIRÔ?

I DON'T
KNOW...

OUT OF THE QUESTION!
I-IDIOT! LETTING HIM OUT IS...
NO TELLING WHAT HE MIGHT DO!
FINISH HIM WHERE HE IS!!

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT.
THAT WOULD BE A GOOD MATCH.
GRIN
ニヤッ

I HAVE AN AMUSING PLAN.
WHAT?
BUT IF WE KILL HIM NOW
HIS IDENTITY AND THE HORI WOMEN'S WHEREABOUTS WILL NEVER BE KNOWN.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
POUR SOME OIL AND THROW DOWN A TORCH.
ONLY ENOUGH OIL TO COAT THE SURFACE.
THEN WE DANGLE YOUR WHIP DOWN.
HM.
I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT EARLIER BUT...
WON'T IT START A FIRE?

ENGULFED BY THE FLAMES, THEY'LL GRAB ON TO THE WHIP AND BEGIN TO CLIMB.
THAT'S WHEN OUR LORD WILL MAKE A TARGET OF THEM WITH HIS BOW AND ARROW.
AND IF THEY MANAGE TO MAKE IT OUT...
WE'LL ALLOW THE MATCH WITH KÔSHICHIRÔ.
GRIN
にや。
I WILL FINISH THEM!!
I'LL HIT THEM! HIT THEM!!
OHH!!
CLENCH
ぐぐぐ

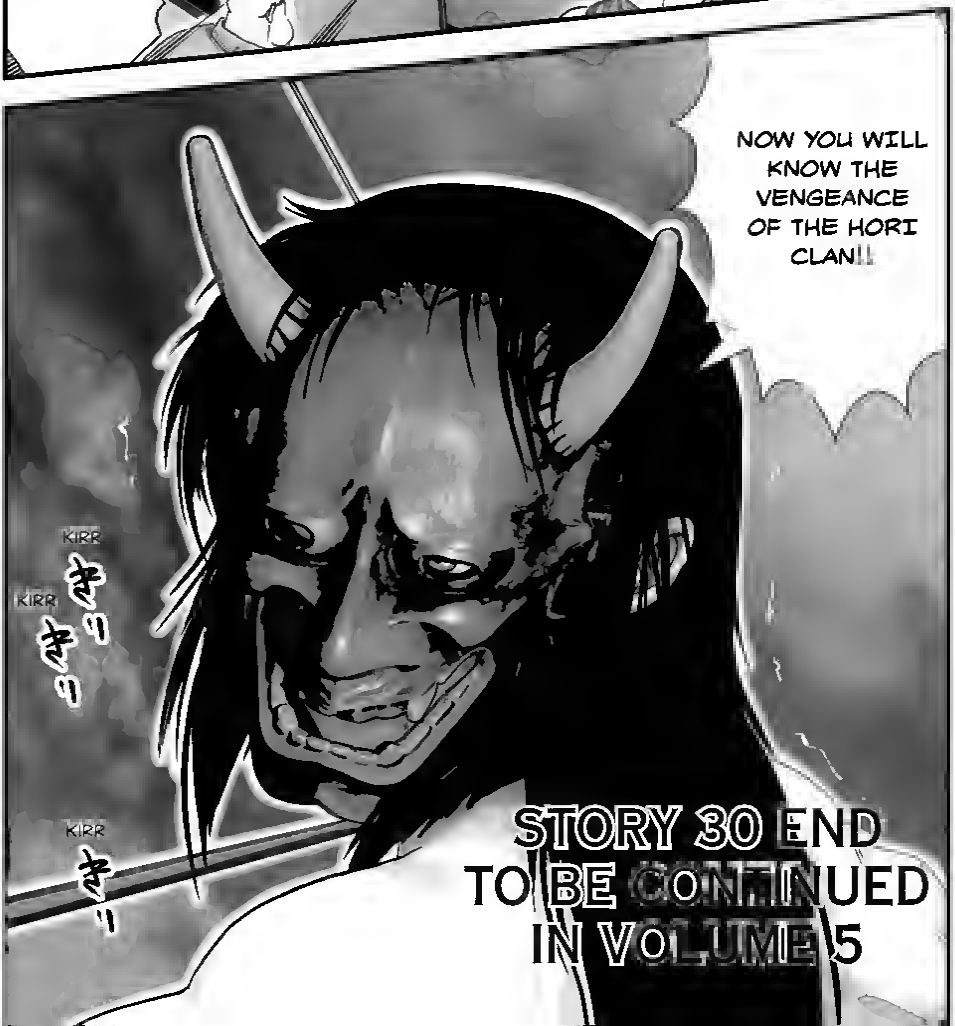
WAHA-HAHA-HAHA.
FINE, IT'S SETTLED!!

RISE
ゆらり

I SHALL SHOOT THEM BOTH DOWN!!
IT'S A SHAME, KÔSHICHIRÔ, BUT YOUR SWORD WILL NOT BE NECESSARY!
.....

SLIDE
スー。。。
NOW THEN...
WE NEED OIL.
FINE!
I'LL GO GET...
?
RISE
すっ
DON'T MOVE!!
!?
ZA

KIRR
キー
KIRR
キー
KIRR
キー
KIRR
キー
!?
!?
?



STORY 30 END
TO BE CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 5

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture, Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later, his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan*. He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series *Senma Monogatari*, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series *Onigiri Jyuuzou*, which ended in the year 2000. This is his second-longest-running series and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon. He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

***Yoshiwara,* page 8**

Yoshiwara was the name of the brothel district in Edo.

Go, page 14

The two men are playing go, a strategic game played on a wooden board with black and white stone pieces.

***Rôjyû,* page 14**

Serving under the shogun, the *Rôjyû* oversaw dealings with the daimyô and the Imperial Court.

***Sômetsuke,* page 14**

A post entrusted to oversee the daimyô or feudal lords.

***Hannya*, page 15**

A demoness with horns and a face expressing a woman's jealousy, scorn, and pain. The bandits are given this name because they wear *hannya* masks, as explained in volume three.

IT IS SAID, "PRINCESS SEN IS JEALOUS OF ALL ACTIVE COUPLES WHO ARE NEWLY MARRIED. SO SHE ABDUCTS THE GROOM, HAS HER WAY WITH HIM, DRAINING HIS SEXUAL ENERGY, AND CASTS HIM OUTSIDE THE GATE.
ALL THE MEN WERE FOUND HAGGARD AND ... FEARED TO HAVE THEIR S. I. DRAINED OUT OF THEM...
THAT IS THE VICIOUS RUMOR HEARD IN PUBLIC...

Princess Sen, Page 16

Lady Tenjuin's name before she became a priestess; the older sister of the third shogun, Lord Iyemitsu.

Sensei, page 67

Sensei is the Japanese word and title for "teacher."

-*sama*, page 73

-*sama* is a term of respect often attached to the names of people who are older or in positions of authority.

Koku, page 140

Koku is a measurement of land ruled over by a lord.